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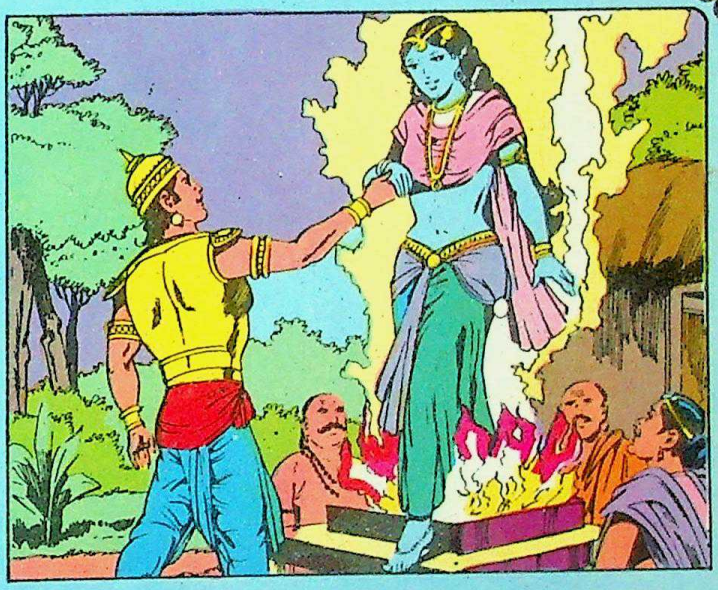
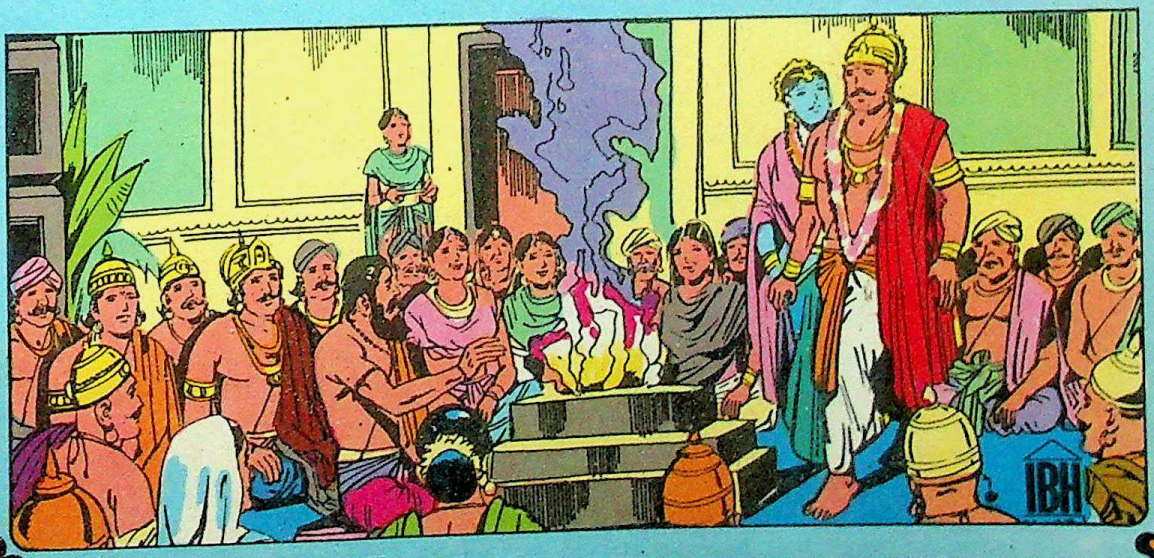
AMAR CHITRA KATHA

MAHABHARATA

THE PANDAVAS WED DRAUPADI

• THE PANDAVAS AT EKACHAKRA • ENTER DRAUPADI • DRAUPADI'S SWAYAMVARA





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MAHABHARATA

Veda Vyasa's epic on the Bharata race was first recited in public by his disciple Vaishampayana at the behest of the ageless seer Vyasa himself.

The recital took place in the august presence of King Janamejaya a great-grandson of Vyasa and the many learned sages assembled for Janamejaya's Sarpa Satra (a twelve-year- long snake sacrifice).

In the earlier volumes was the description of the growing rivalry among the Kauravas and the Pandavas. The Kauravas' attempt to burn the Pandavas in the shellac palace fails and the Pandavas escape to the forest.

The following three volumes of our rendering of the Mahabharata relate the events at the town of Ekachakra, where the Pandavas lived in the guise of mendicants. Here the courageous Bheema freed their brahmana host and the town of Ekachakra from the clutches of the rakshasa, Bakasura. Later they proceeded to Panchala to attend the swayamvara of Draupadi. Arjuna, the skilful archer won Draupadi's hand. In order to obey their mother's words, all the five brothers were married with due ceremony to Draupadi.

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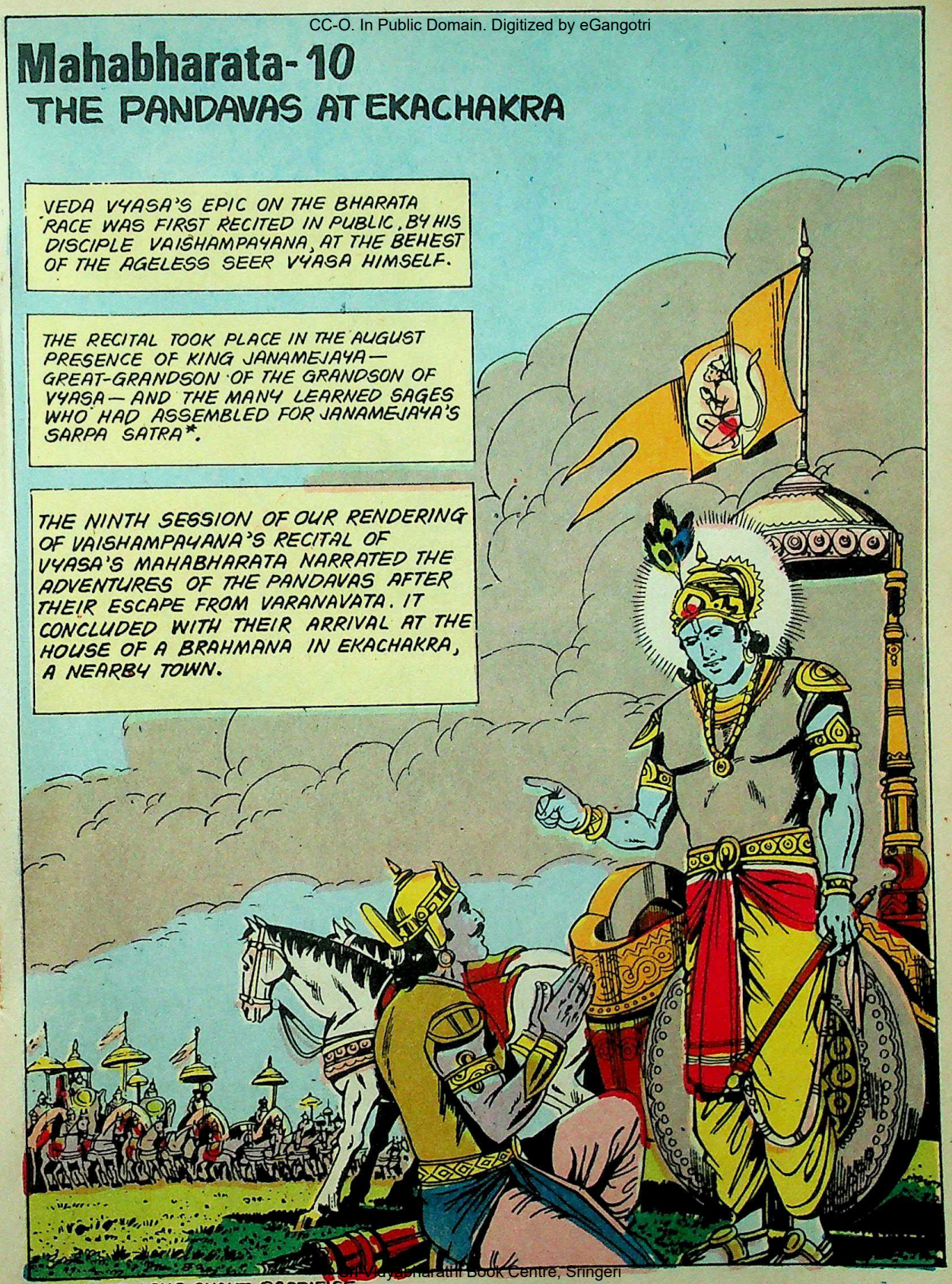
Mahabharata-10

THE PANDAVAS AT EKACHAKRA



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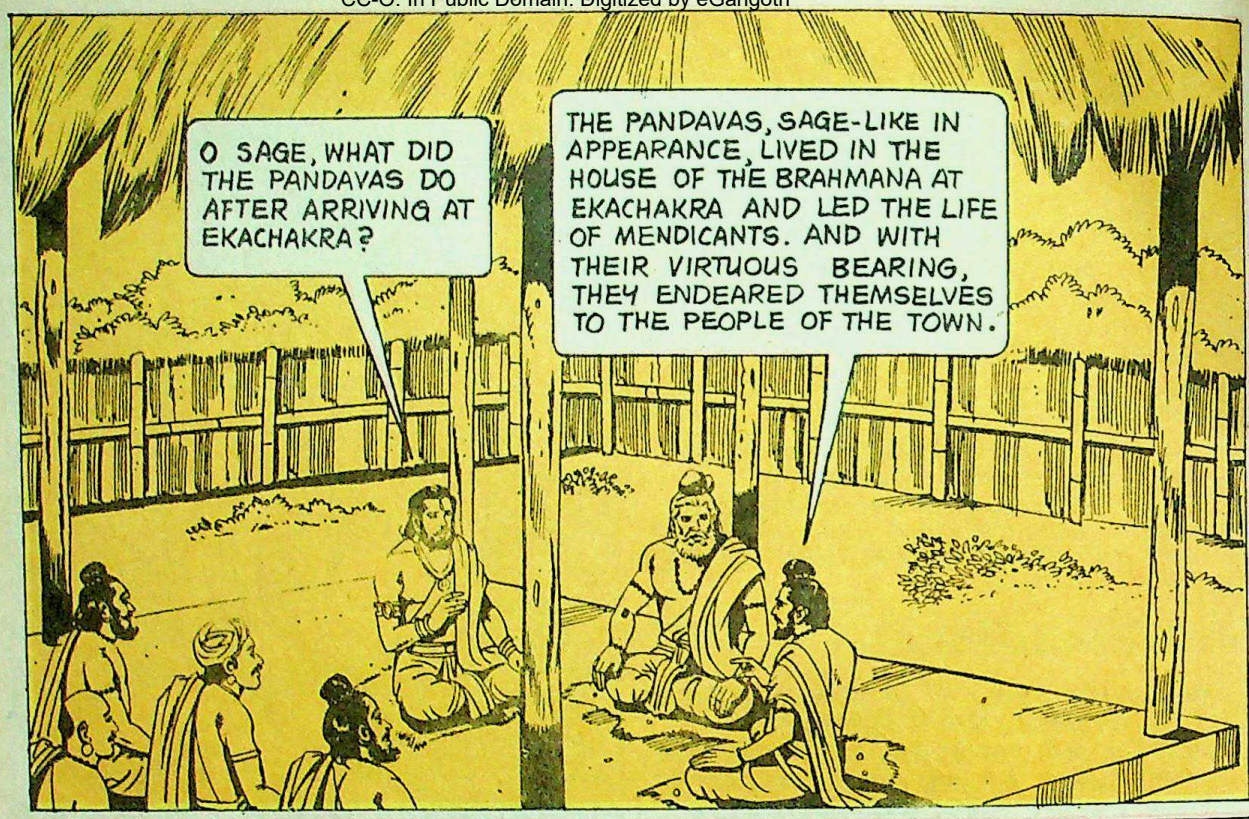

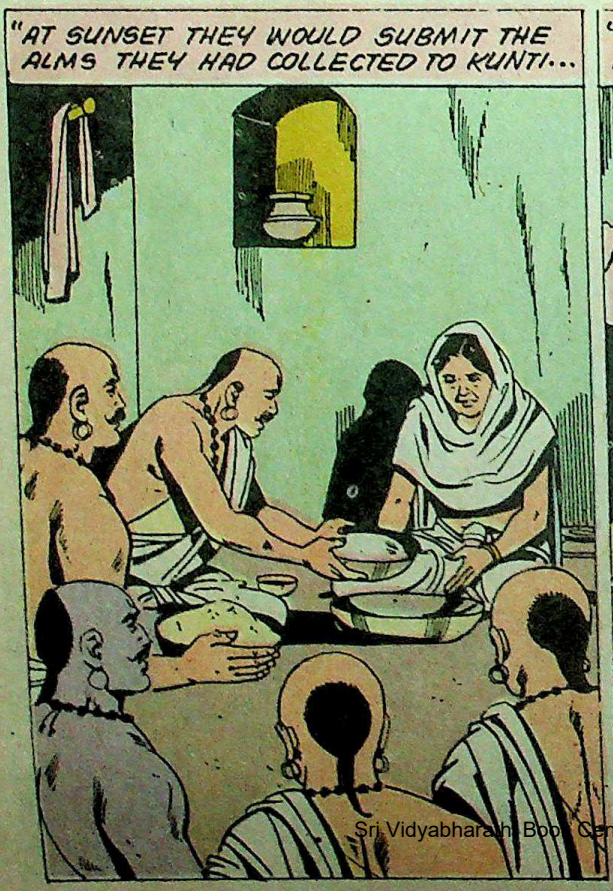

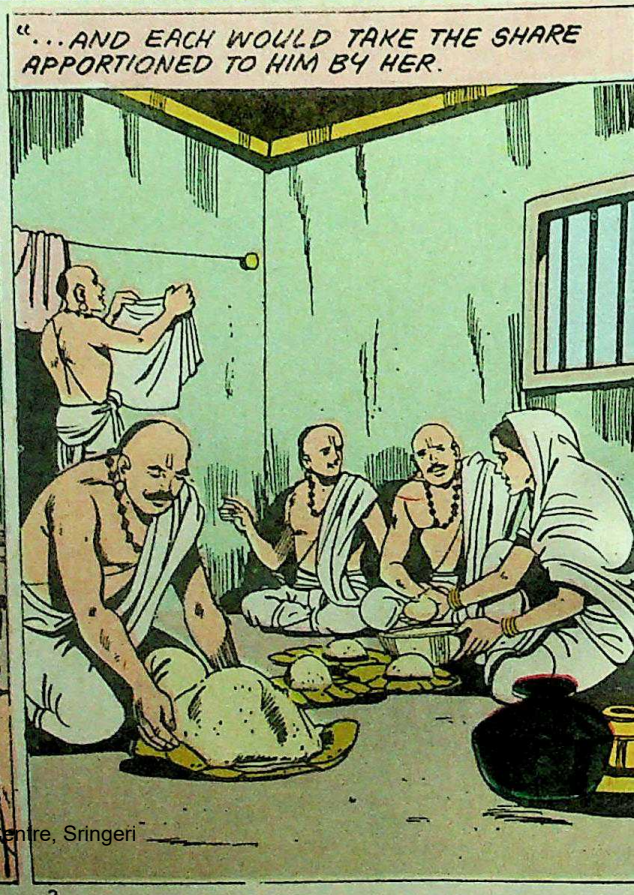

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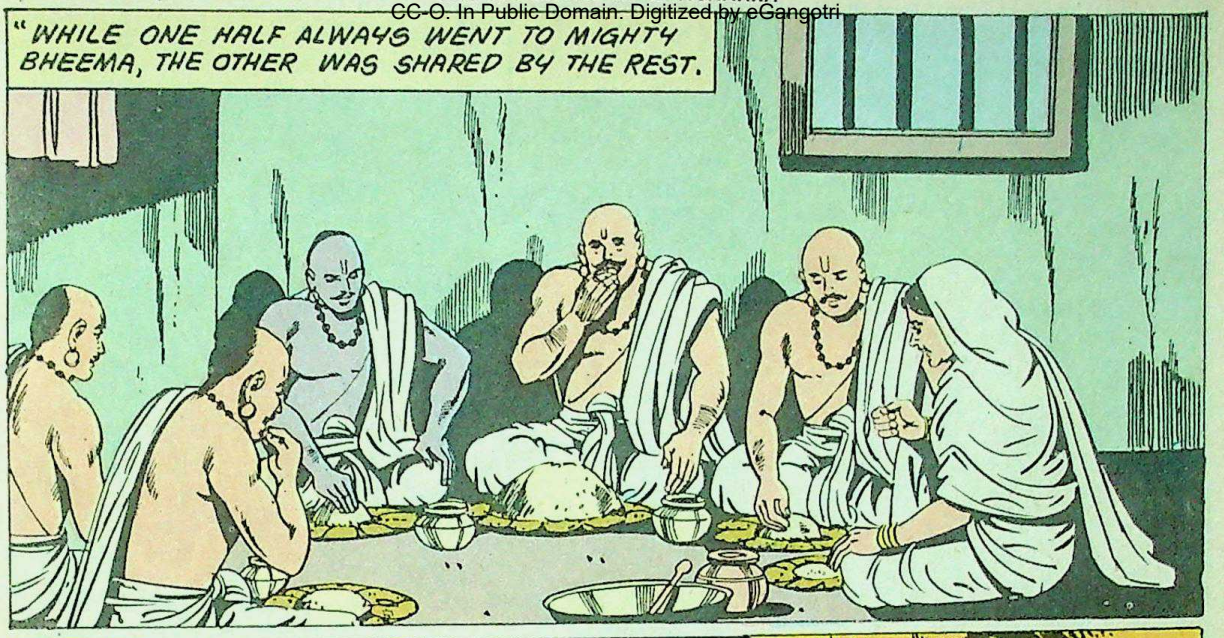

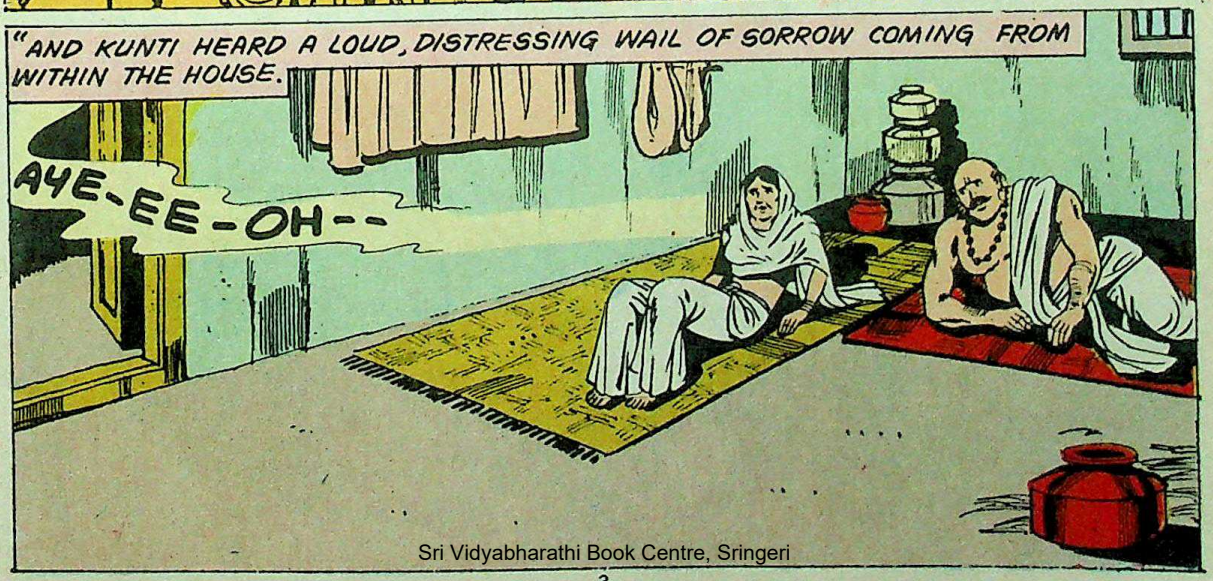

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"THEN KUNTI, O MONARCH, SAID TO BHEEMA:

AYE-EE-OH-

BEYOND DOUBT SOME TERRIBLE GRIEF HAS BEFALLEN THE BRAHMANA. IF WE COULD HELP HIM WE WOULD BE RENDERING HIM A FAVOUR.

LIKE THOSE WHO LIVE HAPPILY IN ANOTHER'S HOUSE, I ALWAYS THINK OF THE GOOD I SHOULD DO TO HIM.

HE IS A MAN WHO RETURNS IN INCREASED MEASURE A FAVOUR RECEIVED.

"THEN BHEEMA SAID:-

FIND OUT WHAT HIS GRIEF IS AND THE SOURCE OF IT. HOWEVER DIFFICULT THE TASK, I SHALL APPLY MYSELF TO IT.

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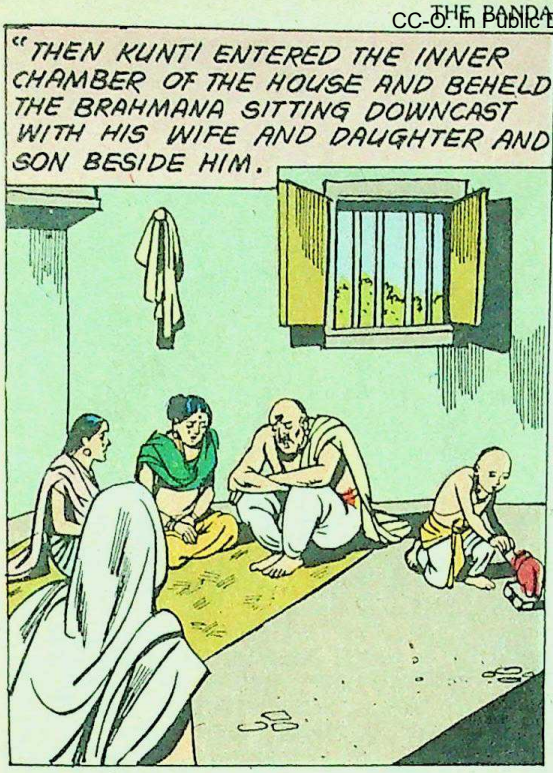

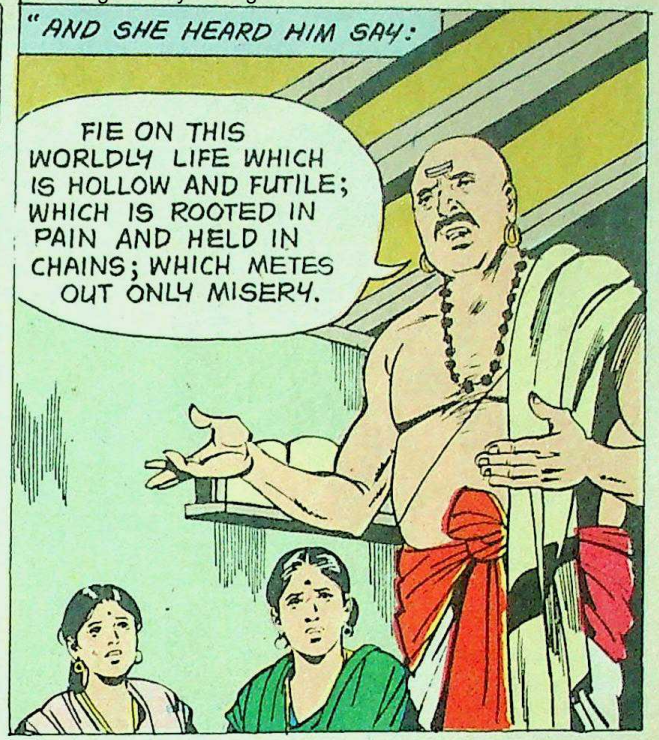

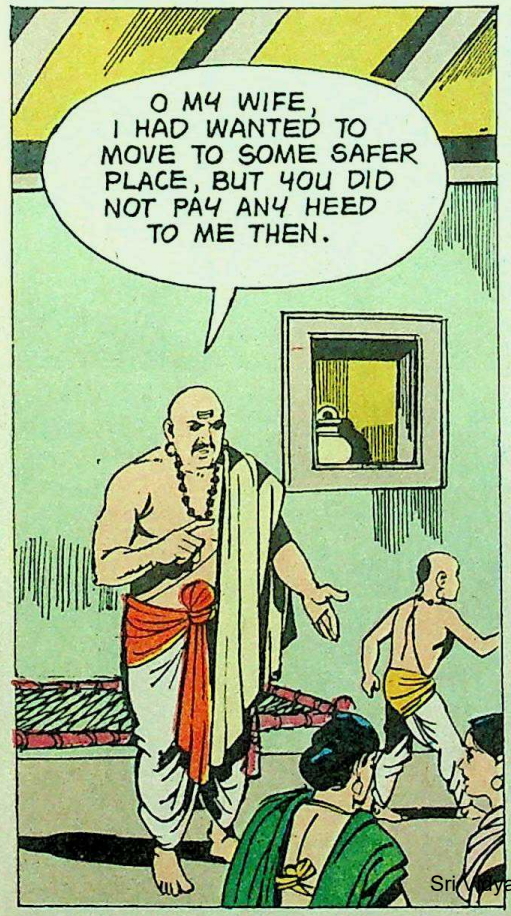

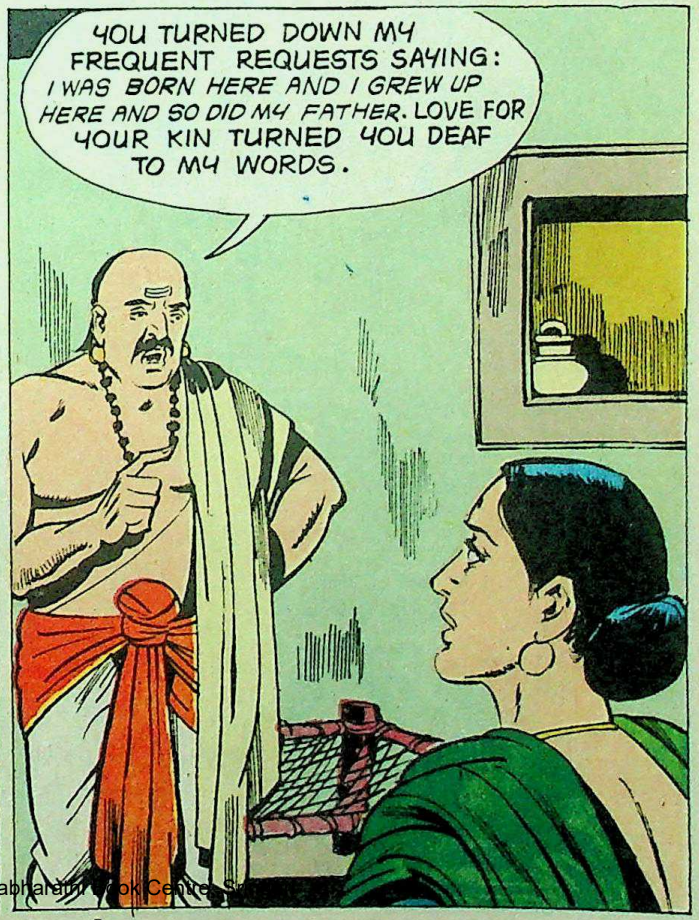

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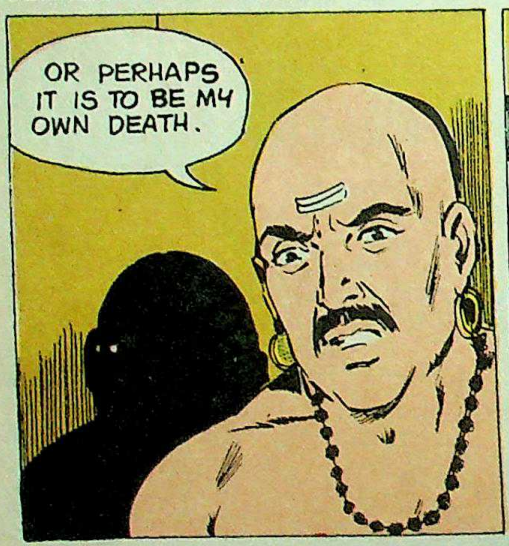

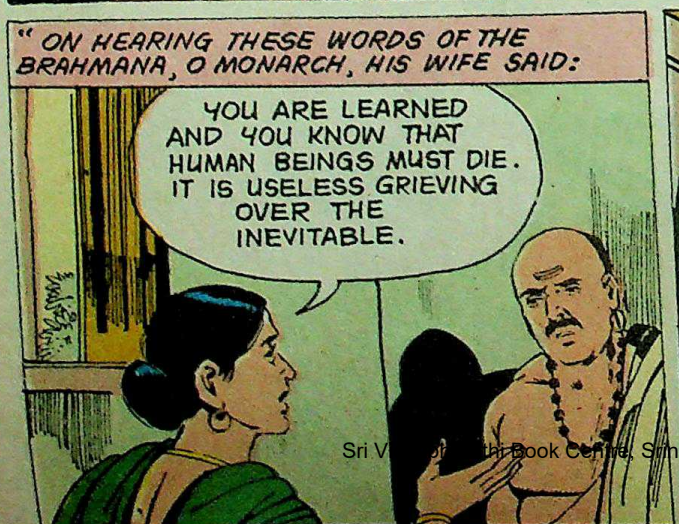

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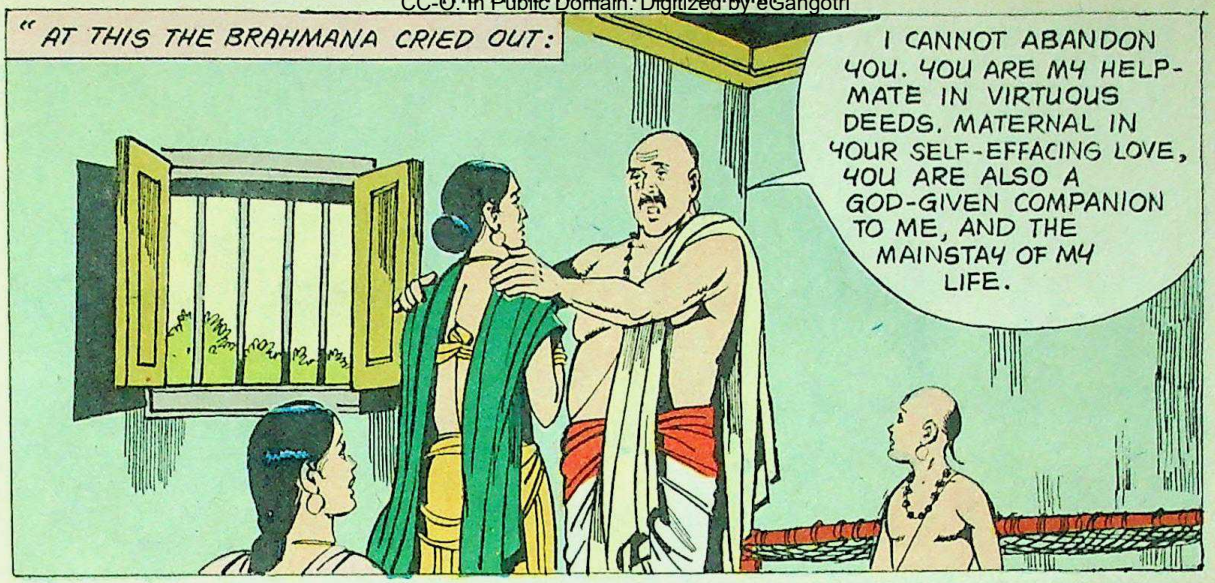

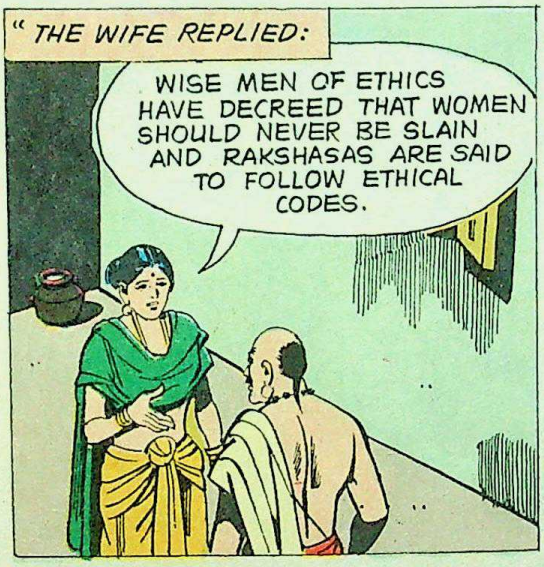

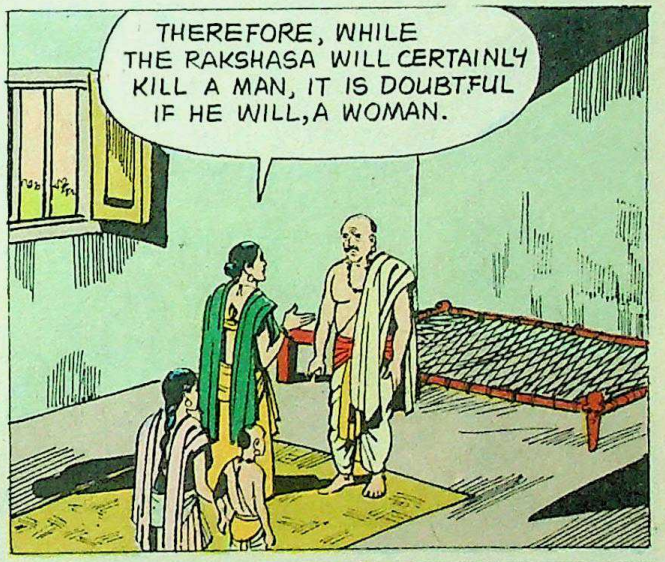

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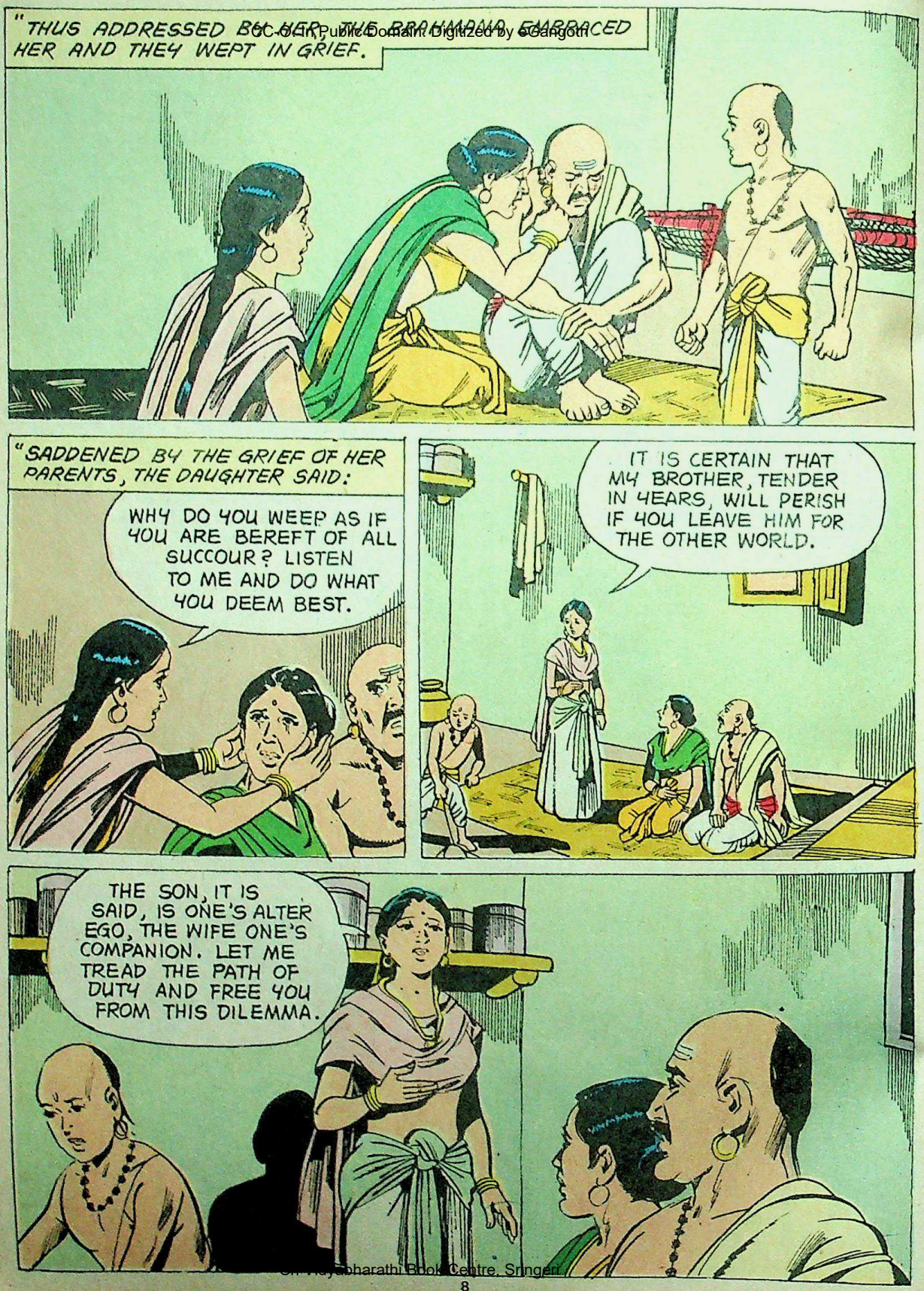

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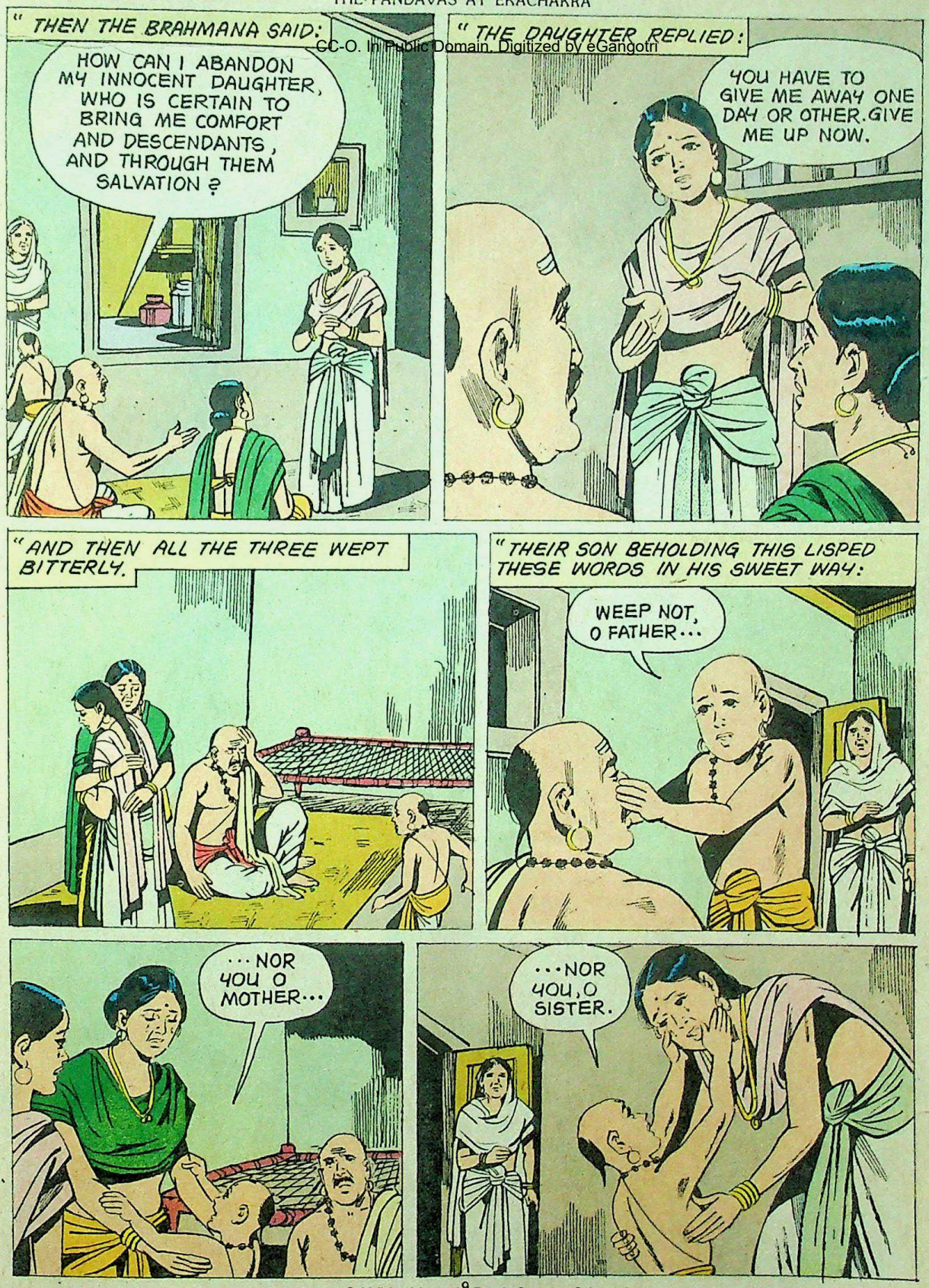

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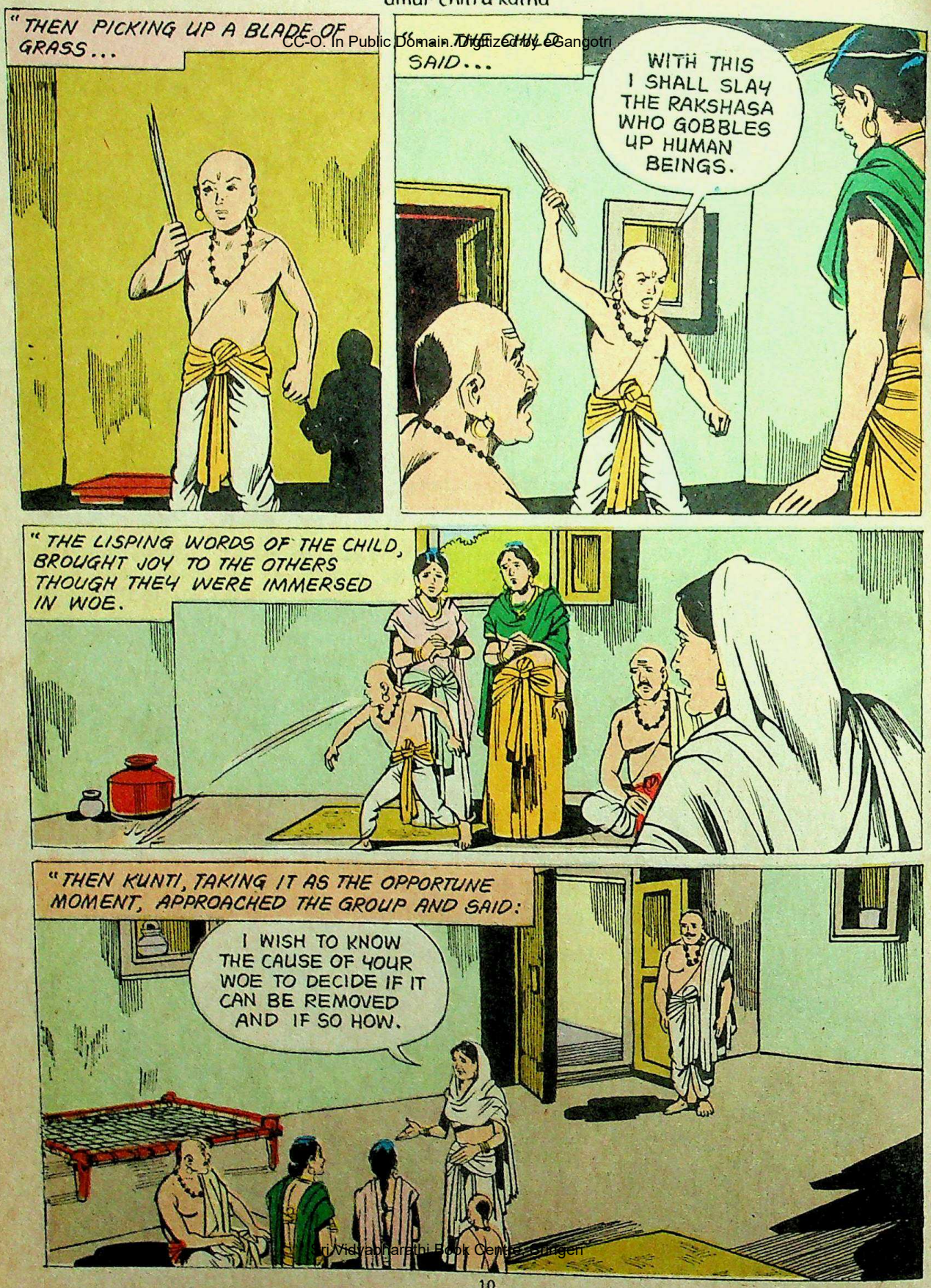

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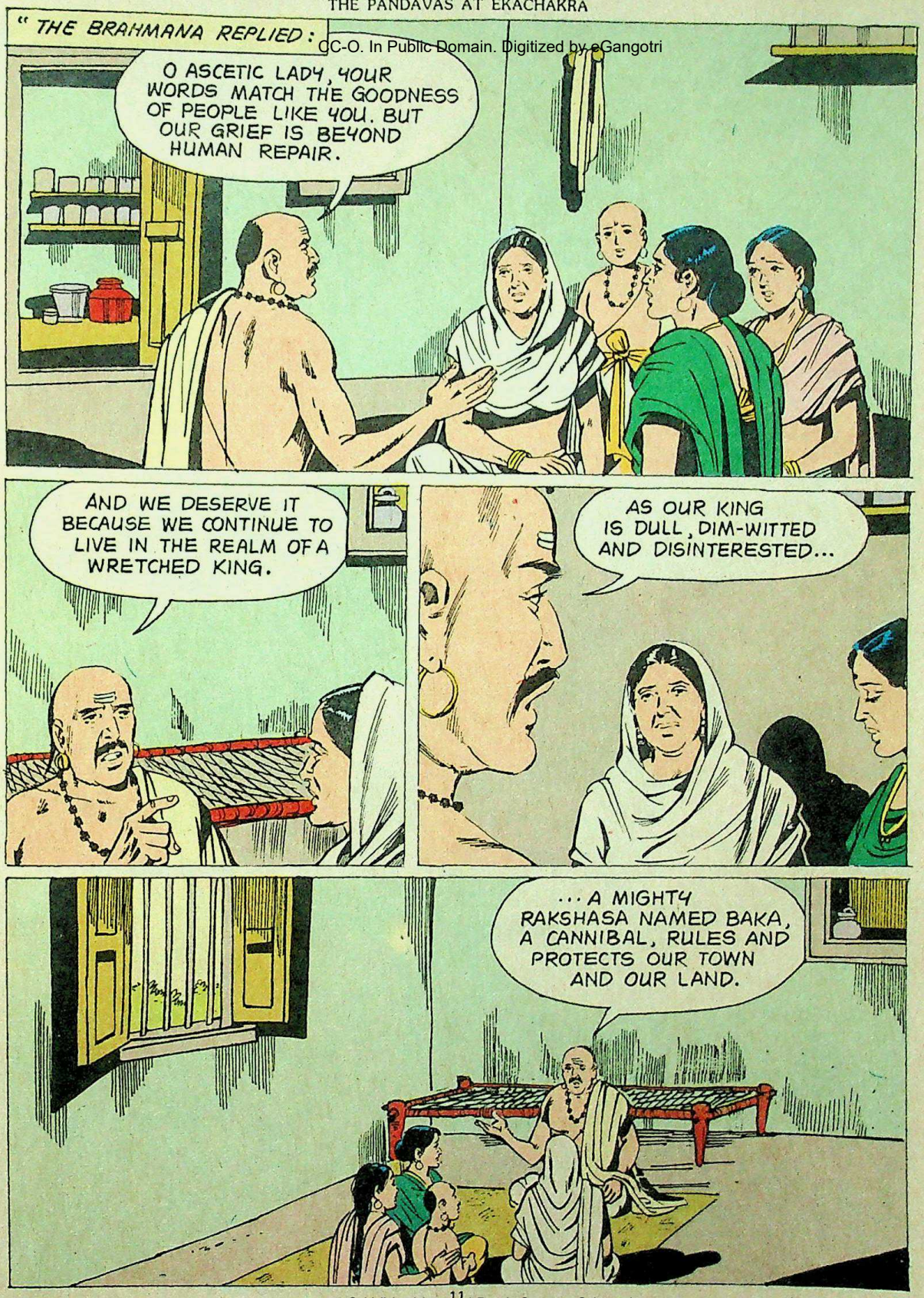

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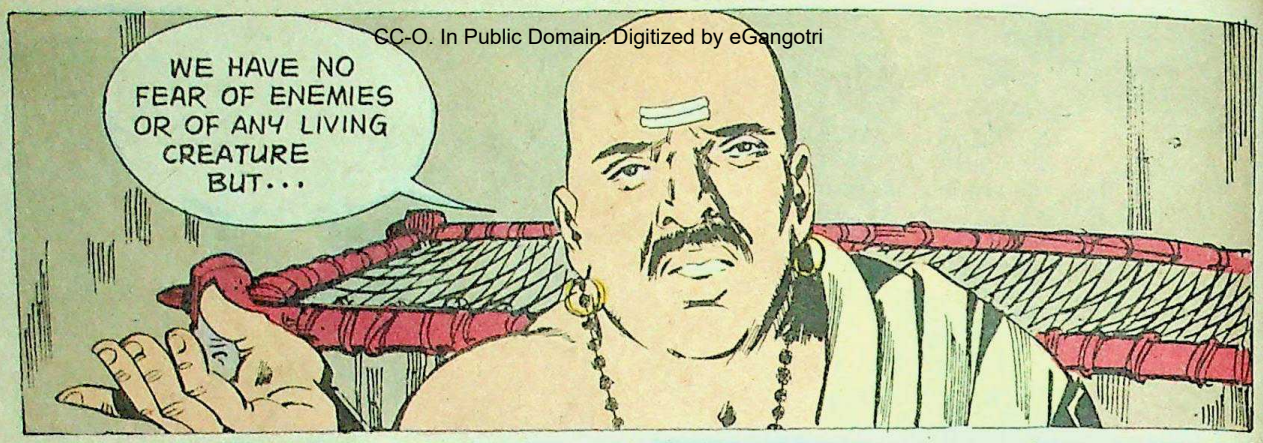

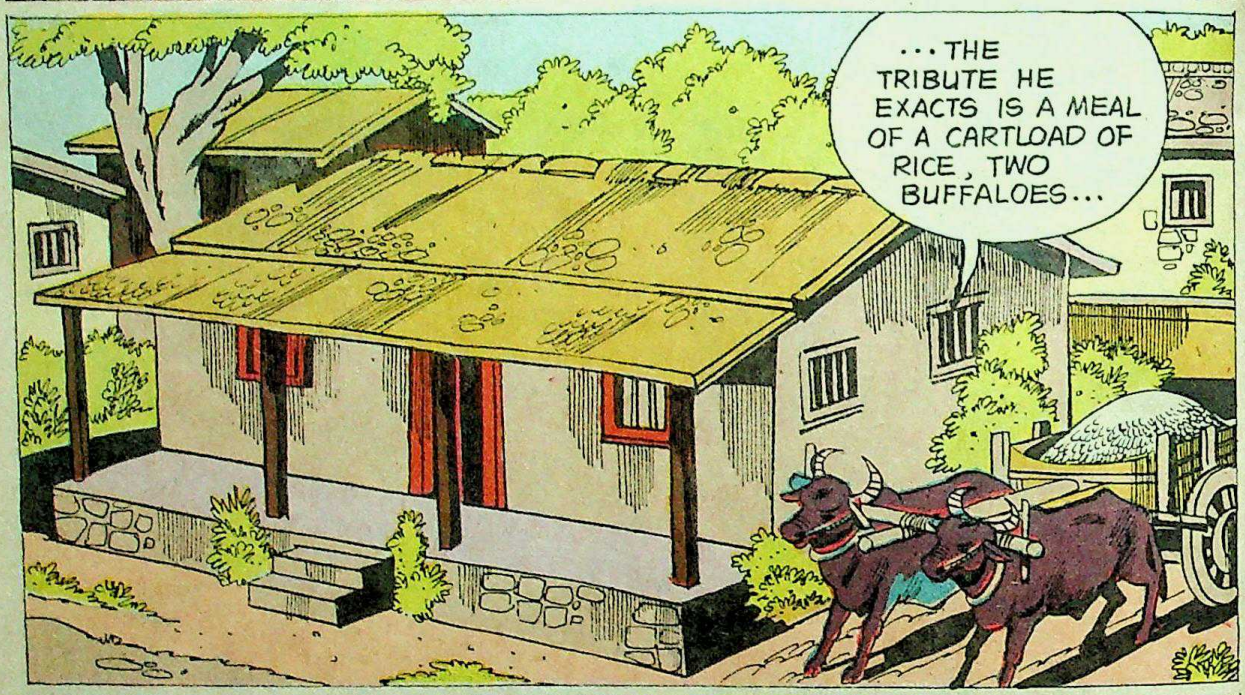

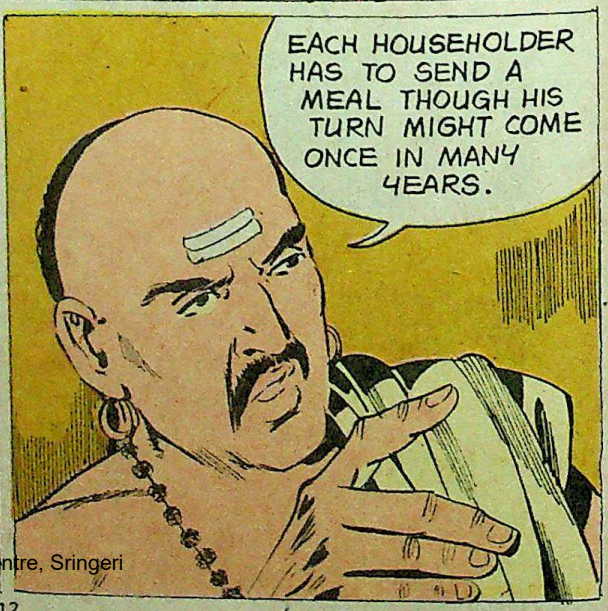

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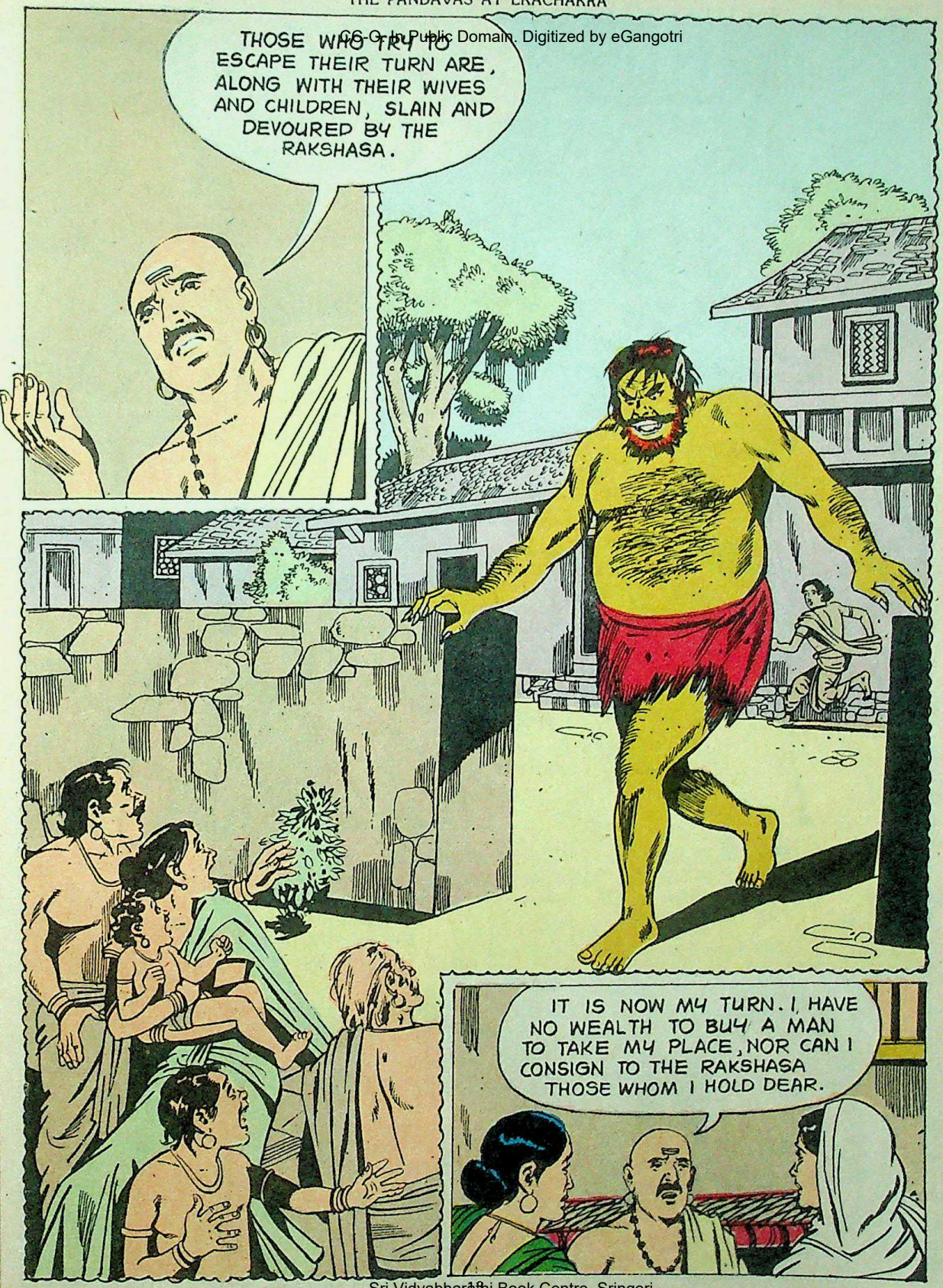

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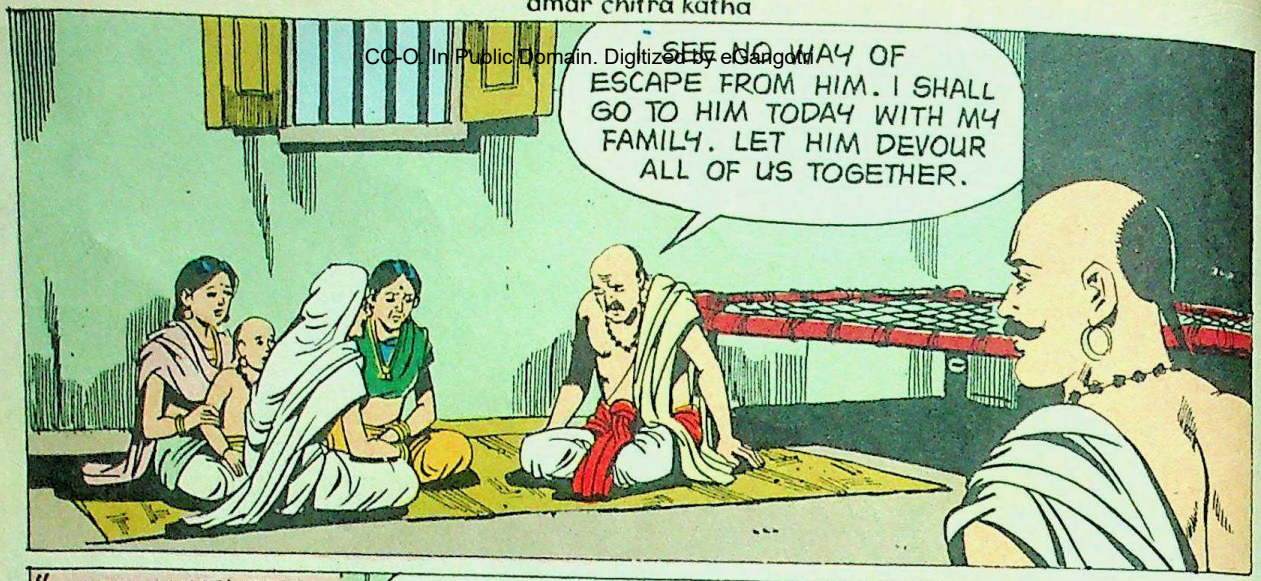

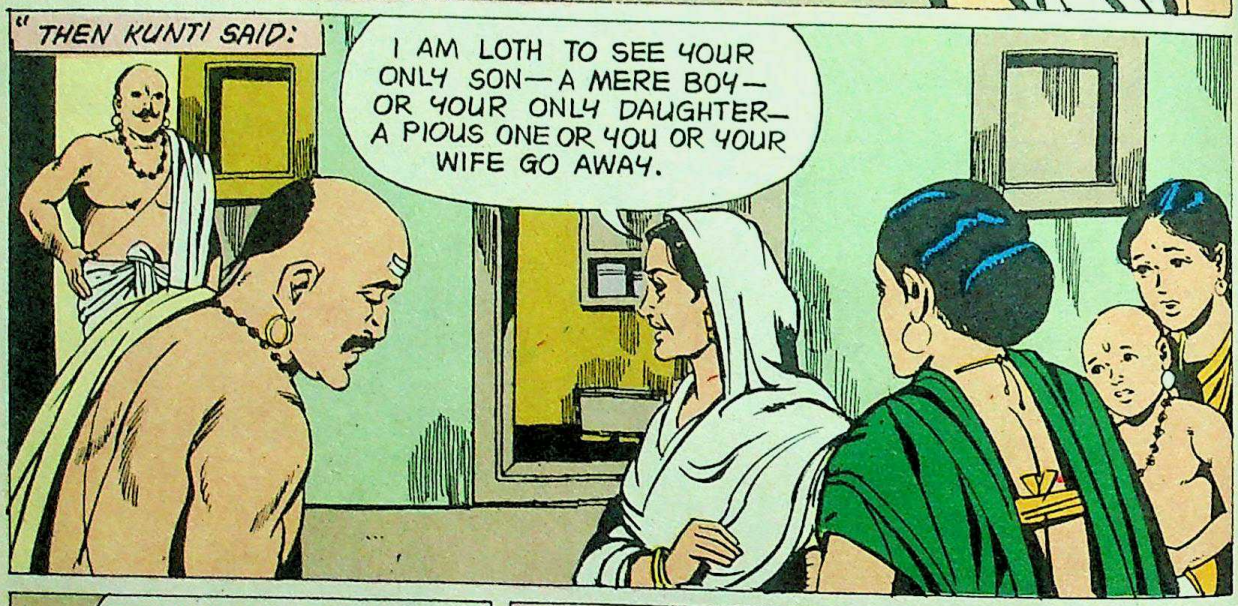

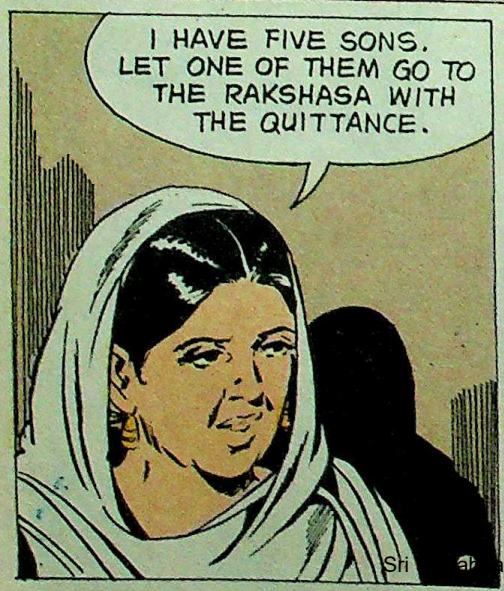

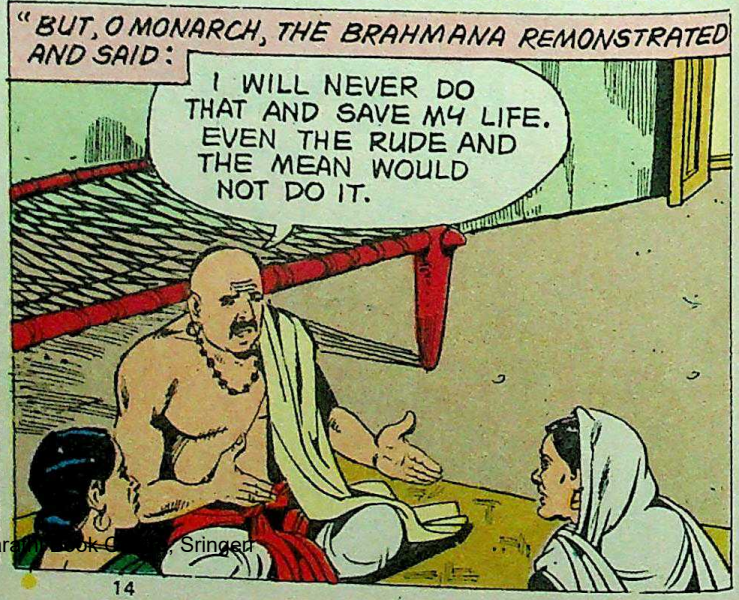

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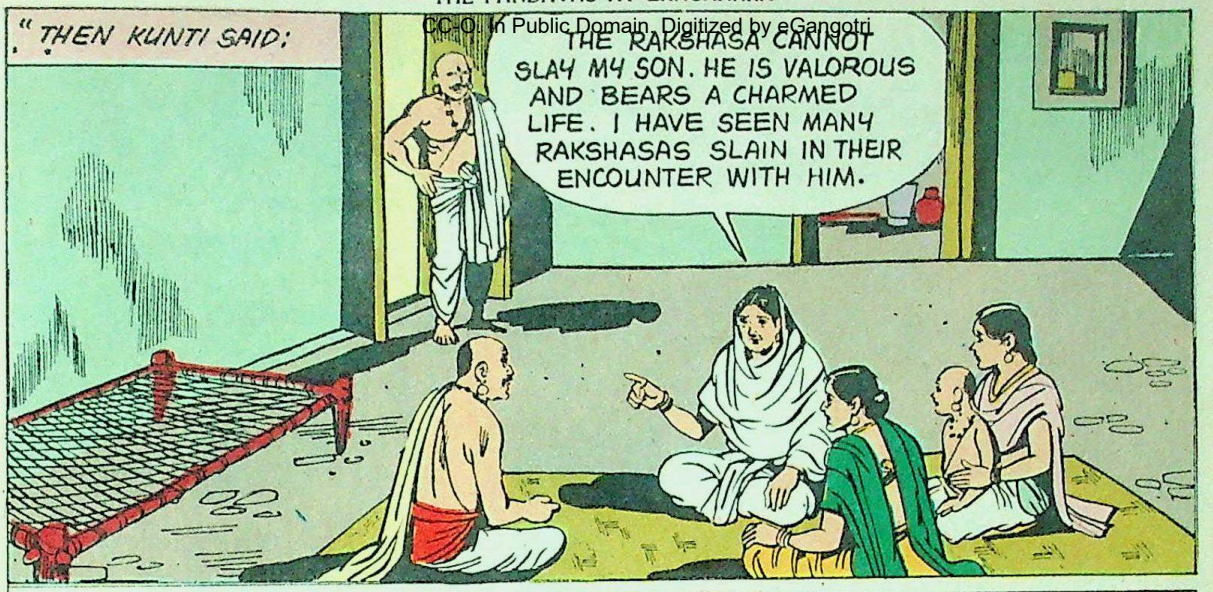

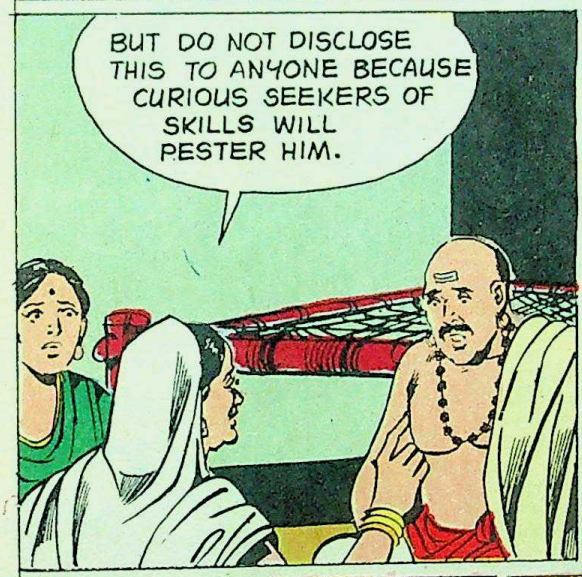

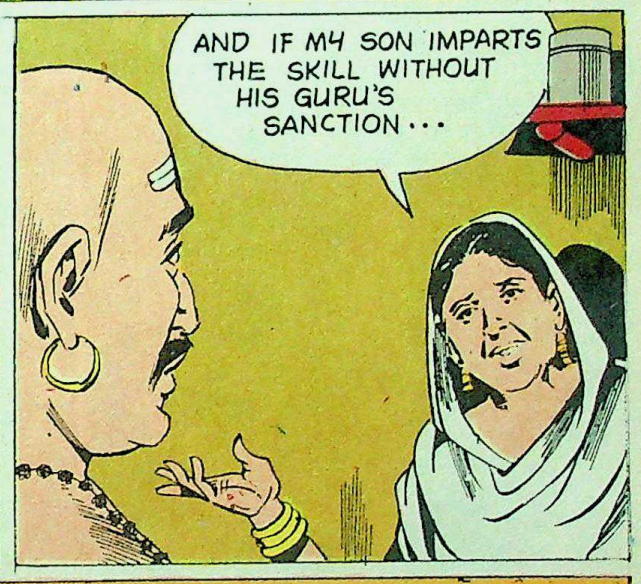

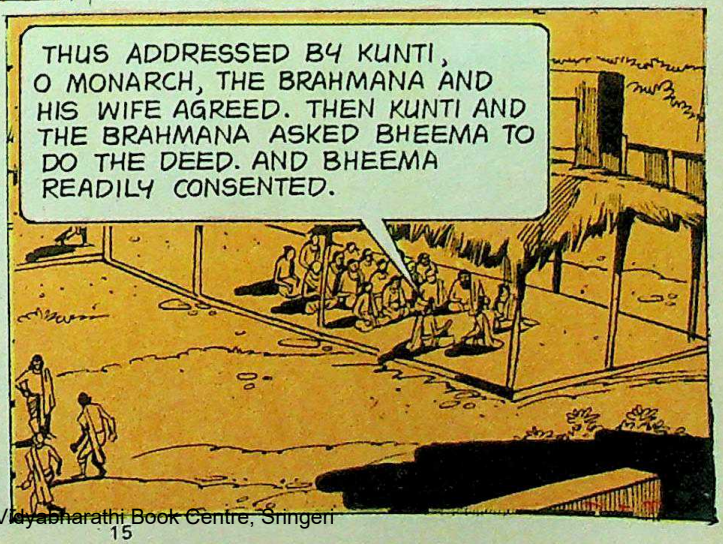

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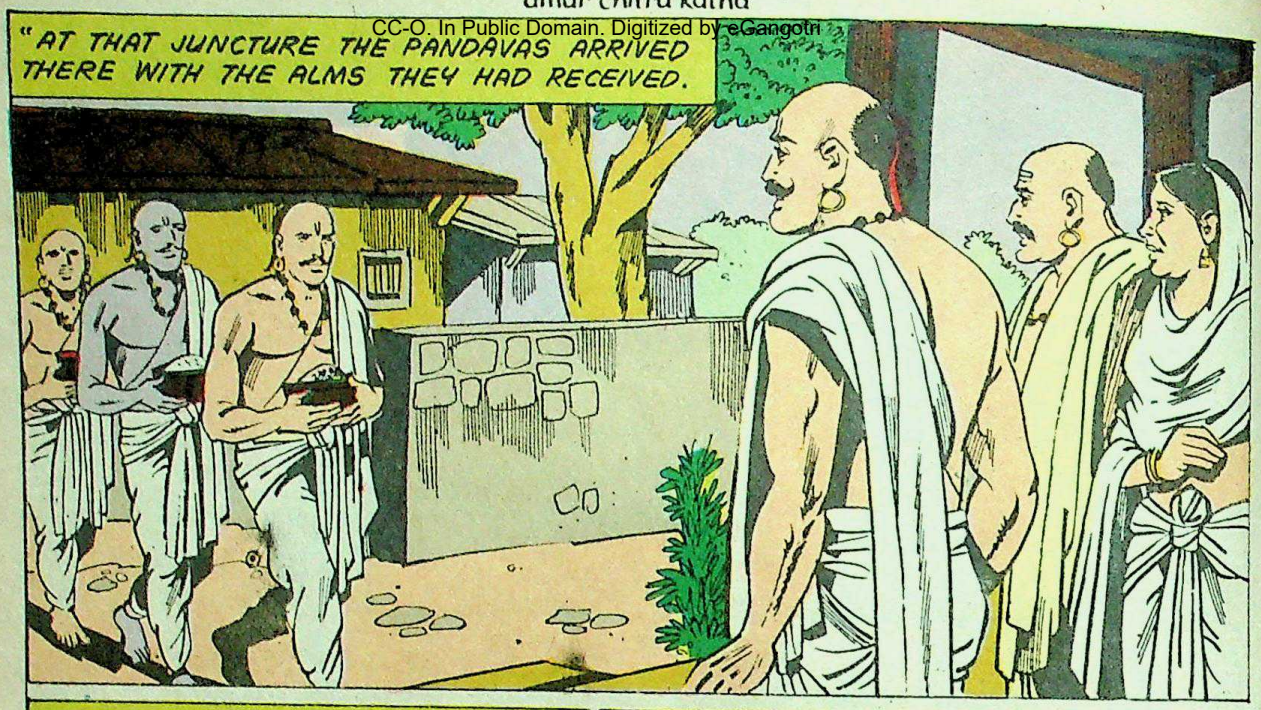

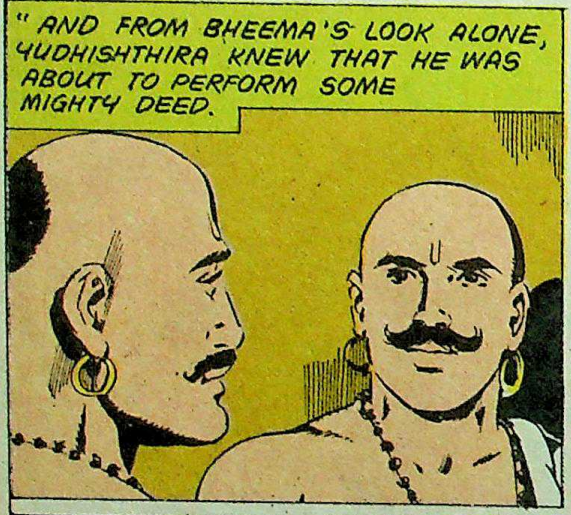

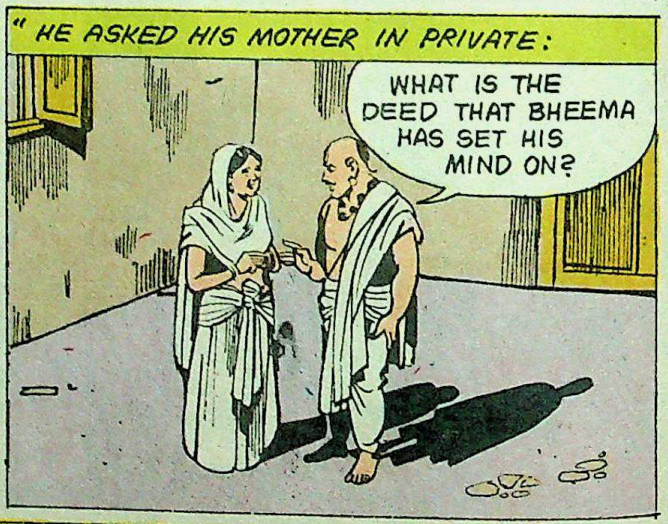

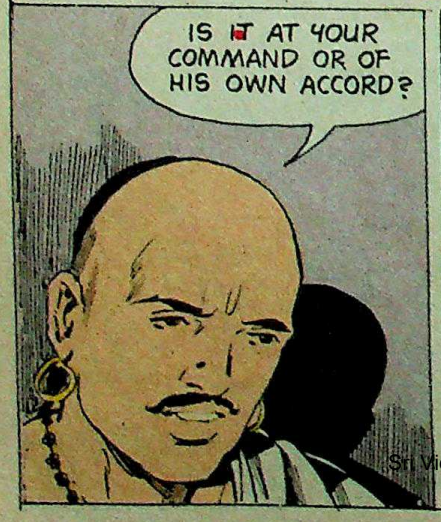

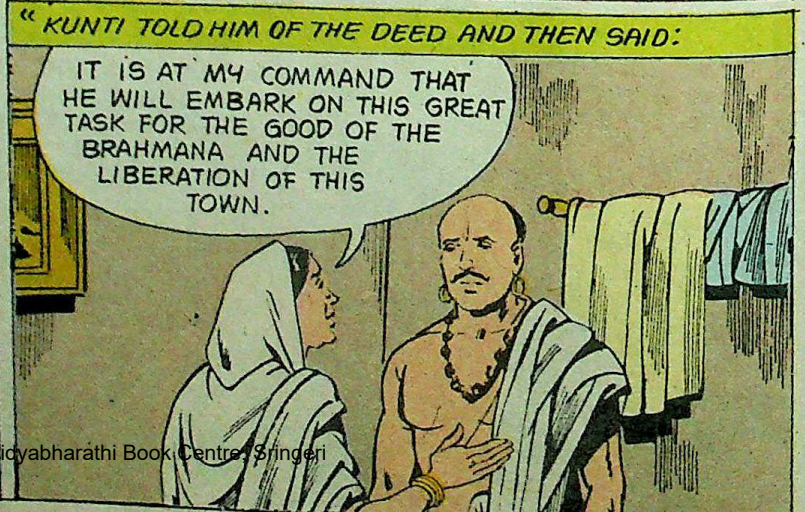

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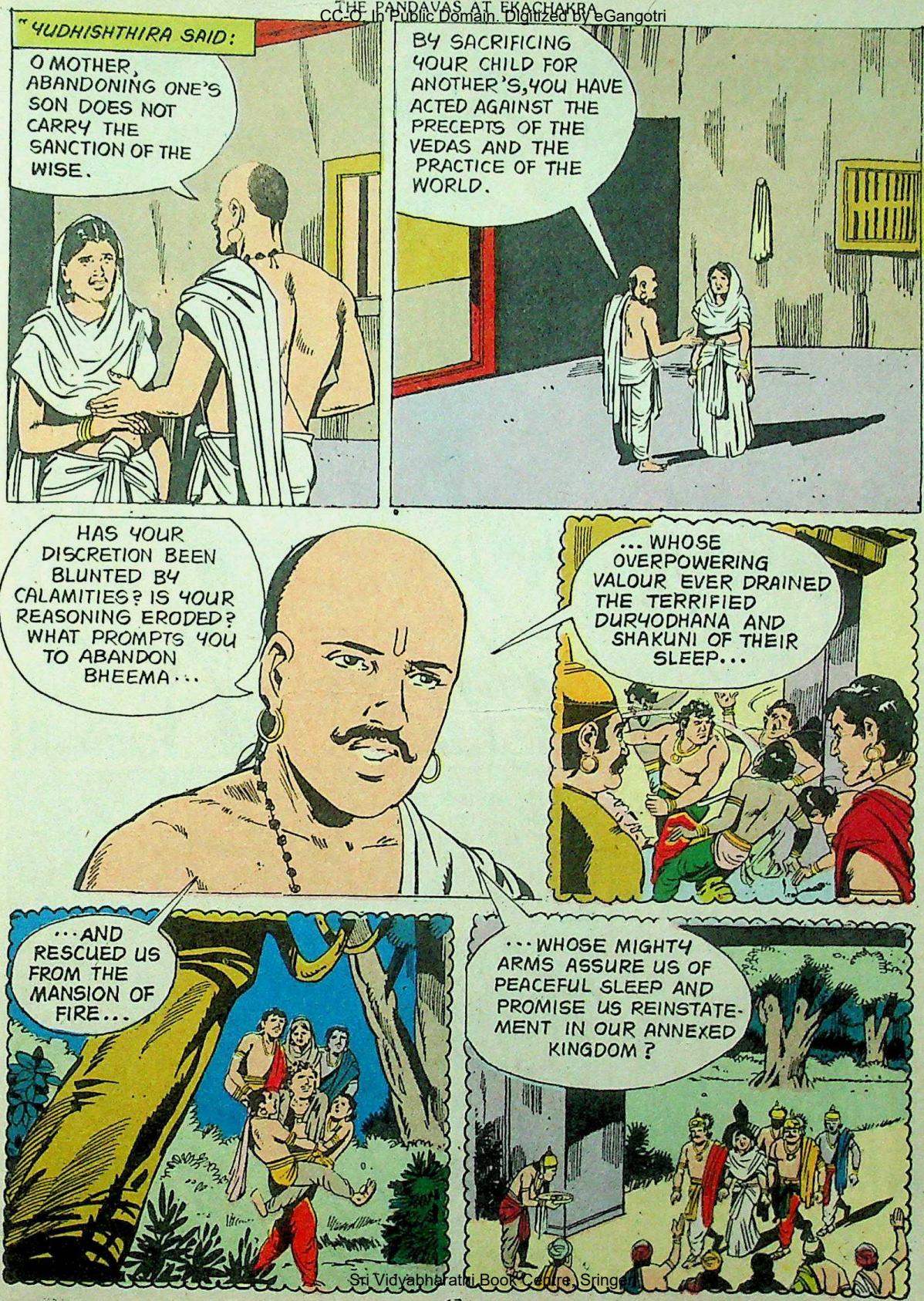

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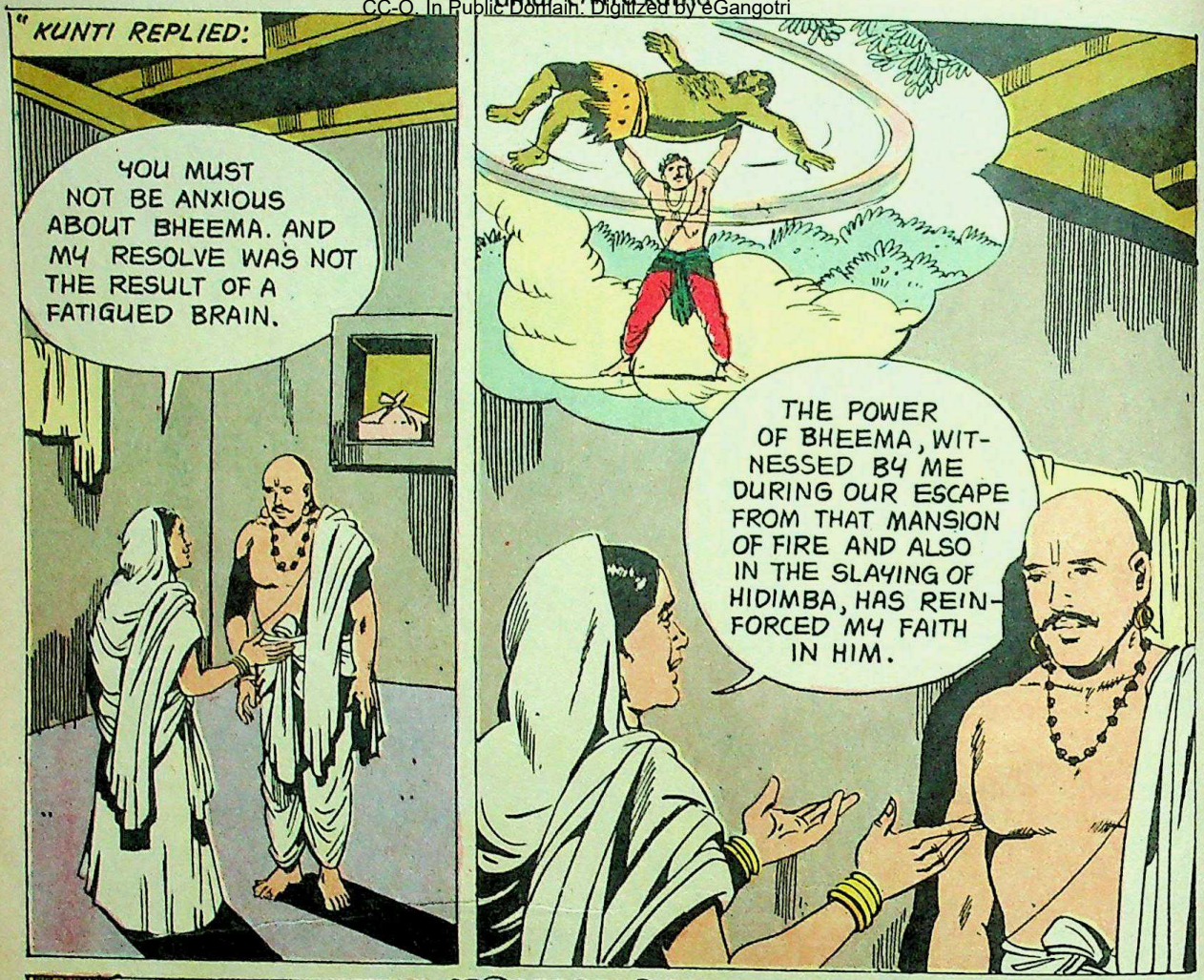

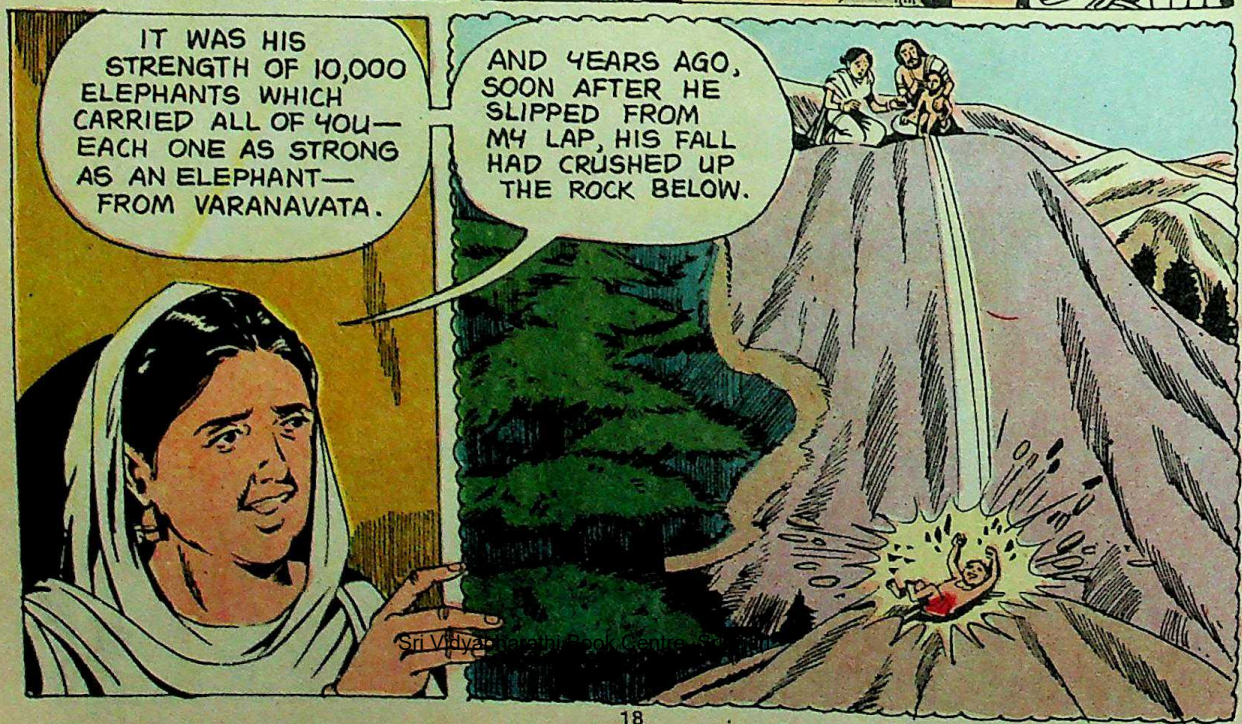

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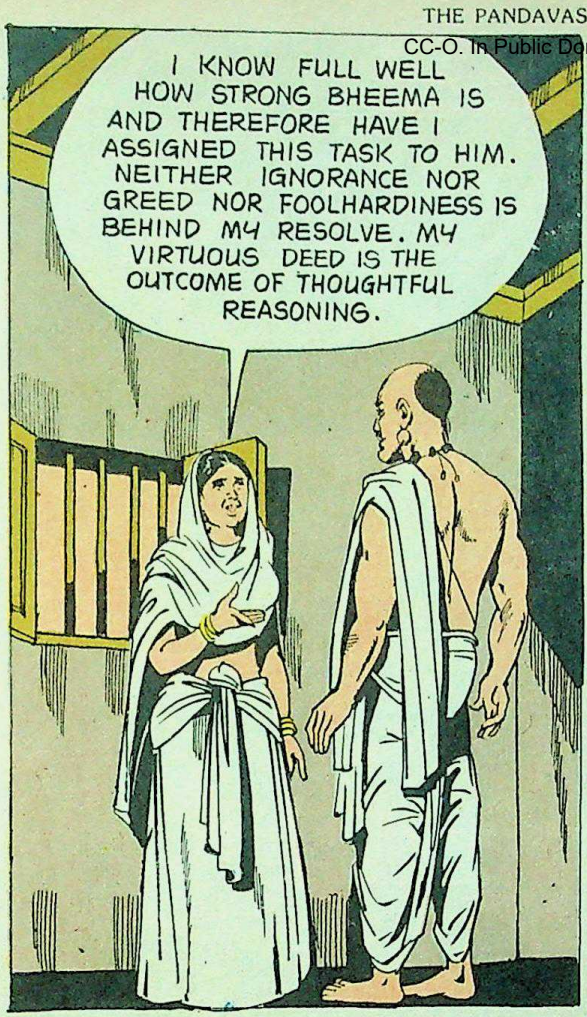

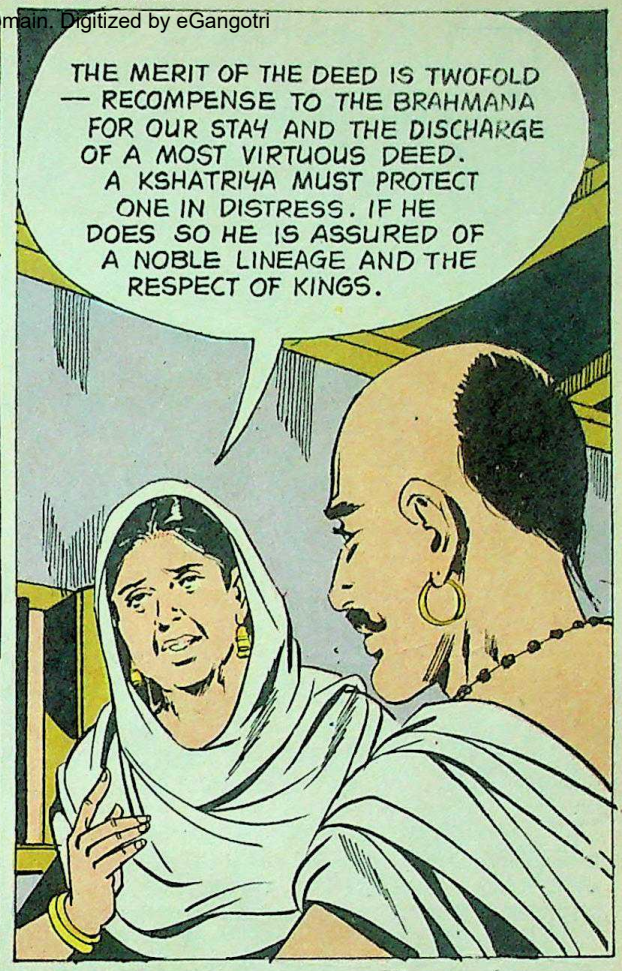

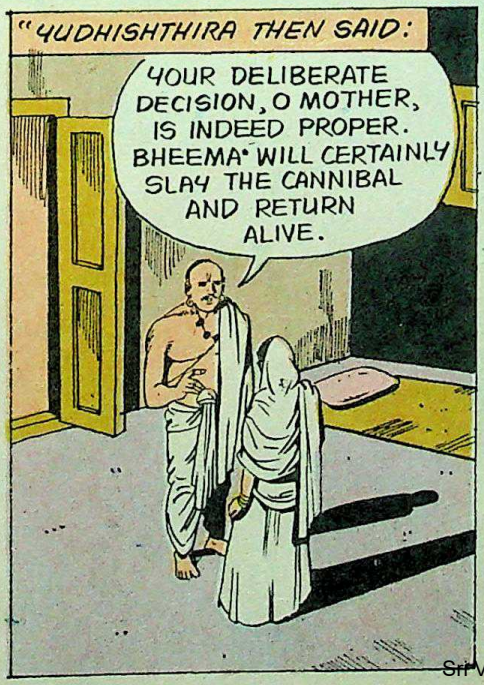

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"THEN, AS THE NIGHT PASSED, BHEEMA TOOK CHARGE OF THE FOOD FOR THE RAKSHASA AND SET OUT TO HIS ABODE.

"THE POWERFUL SON OF PANDU THEN ENTERED THE FOREST OF THE RAKSHASA, HELPING HIMSELF TO THE FOOD...

"...AND CALLING OUT:

BAKA— O BAKA— BAKA-A-

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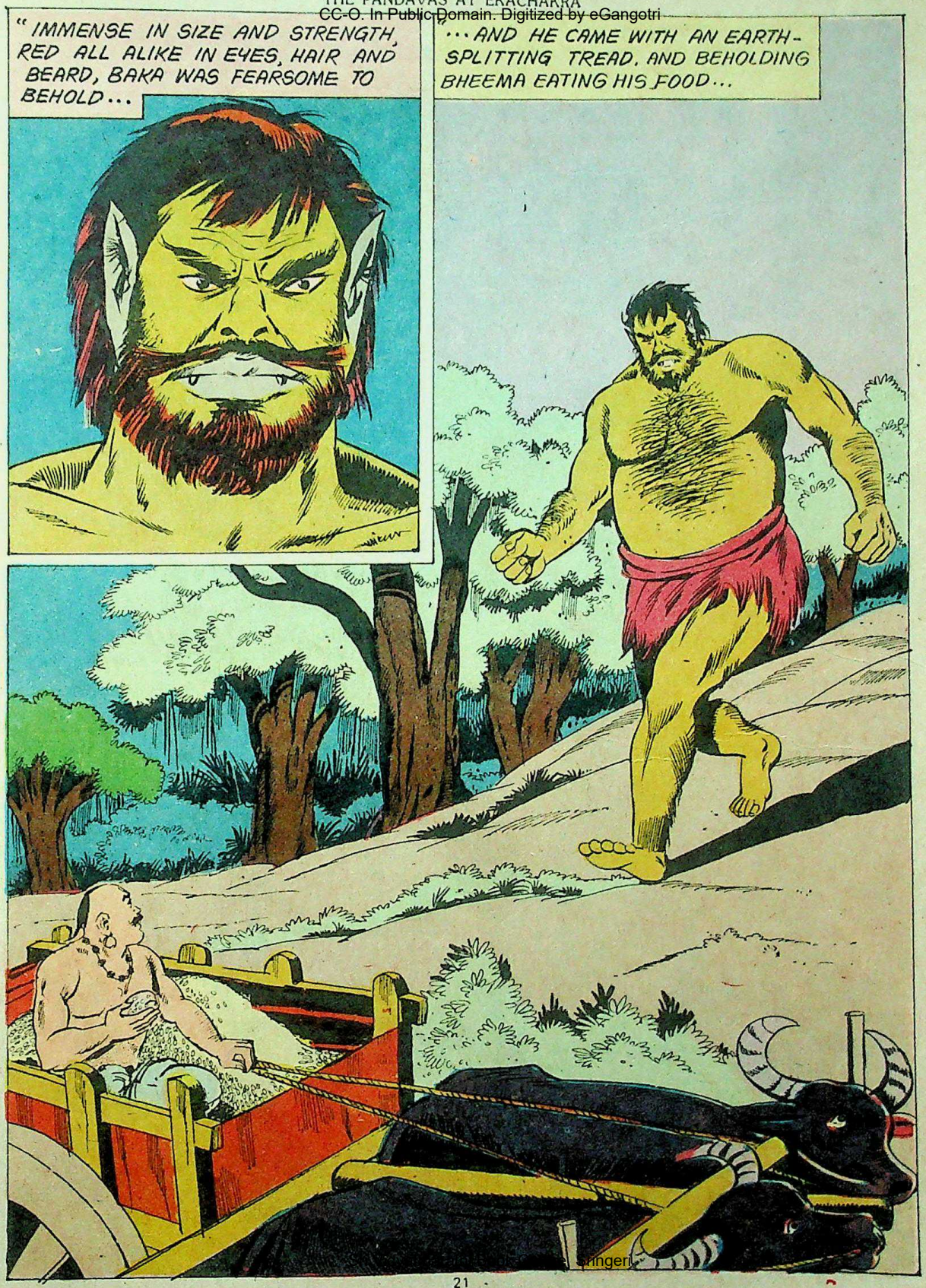

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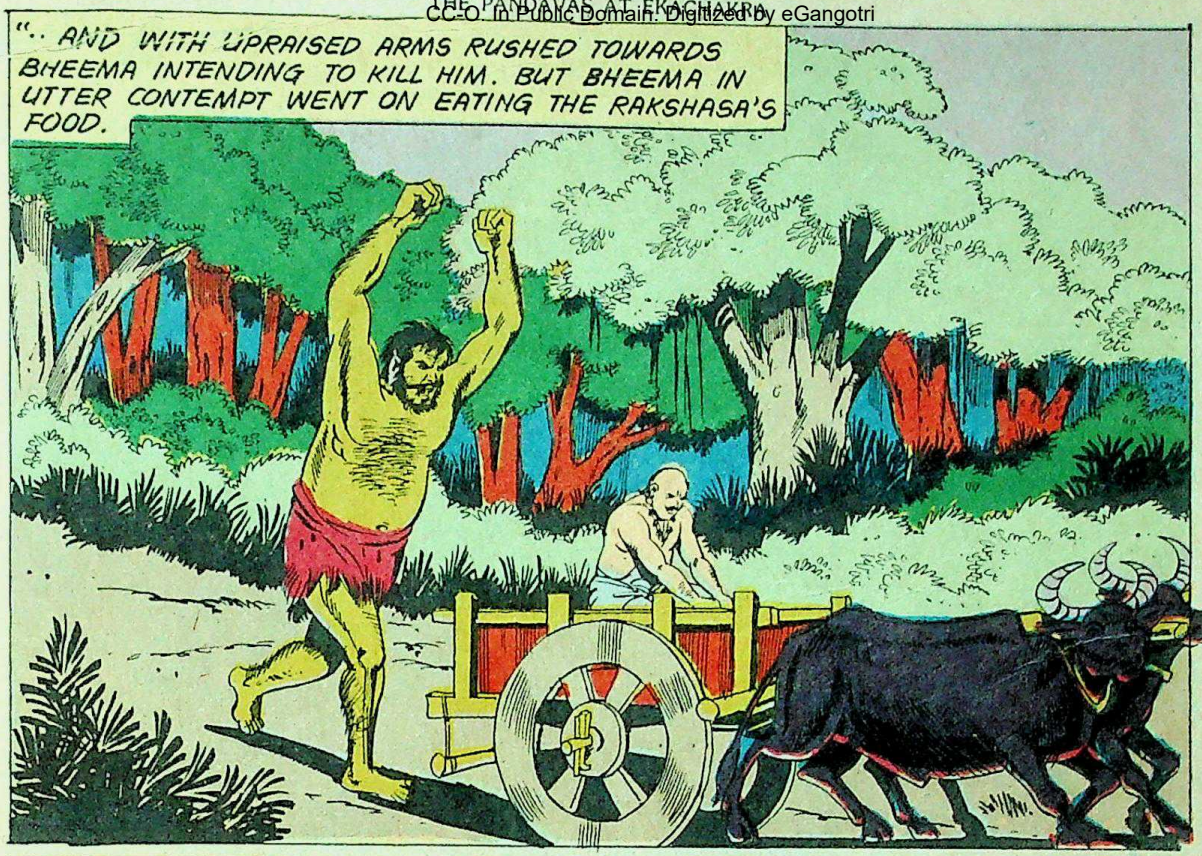

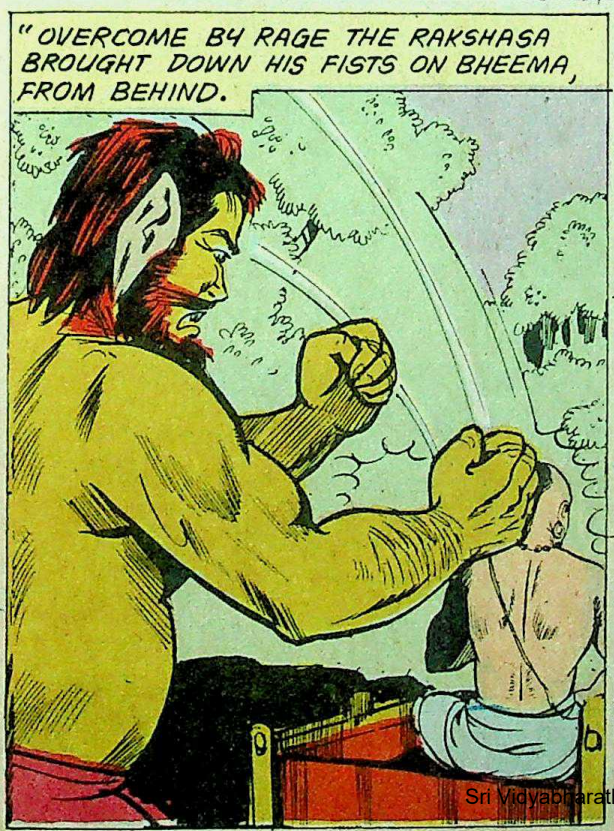

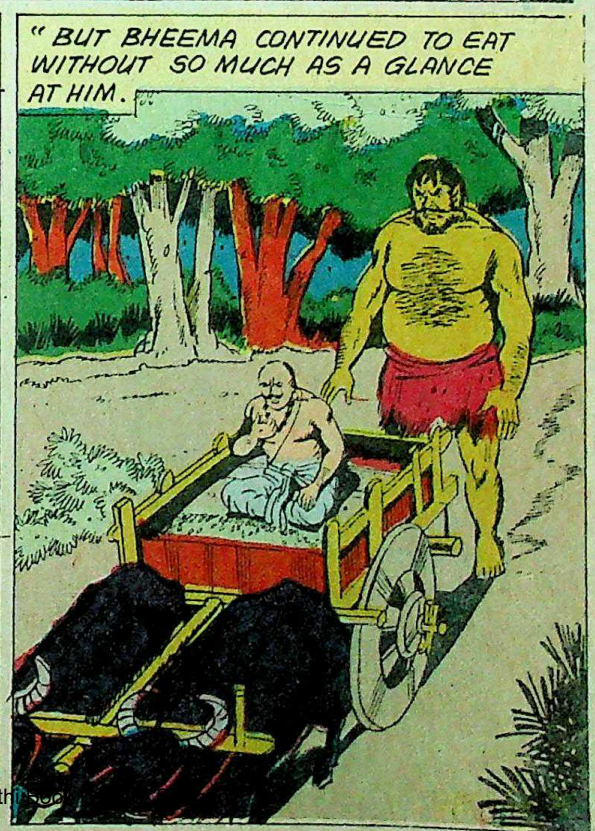

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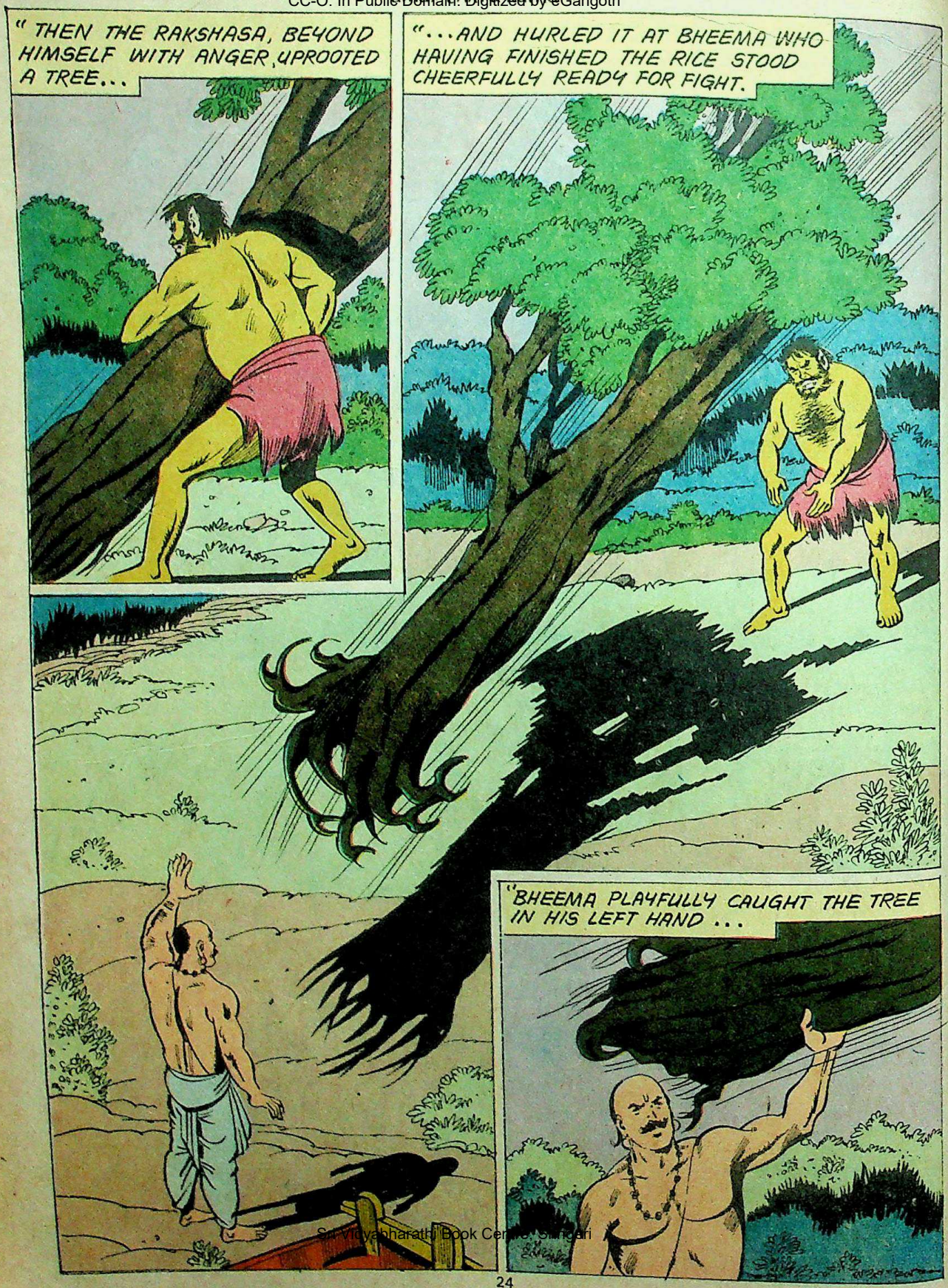

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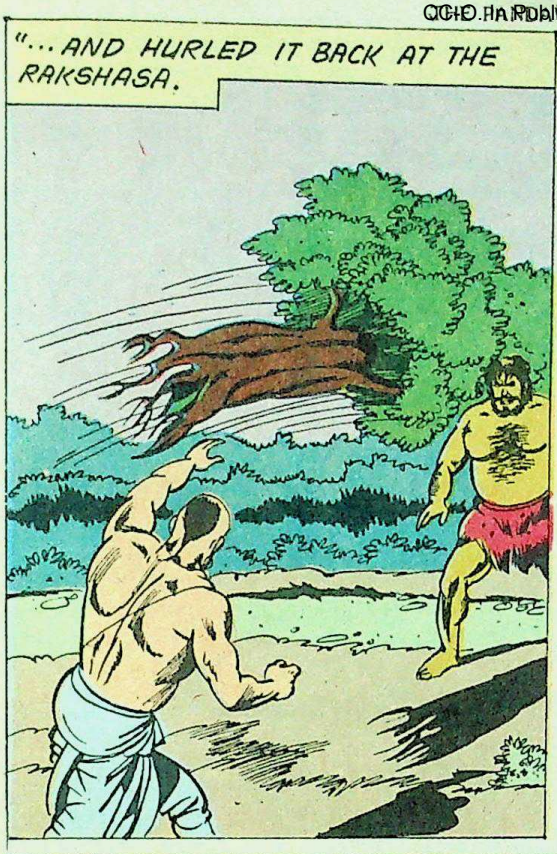

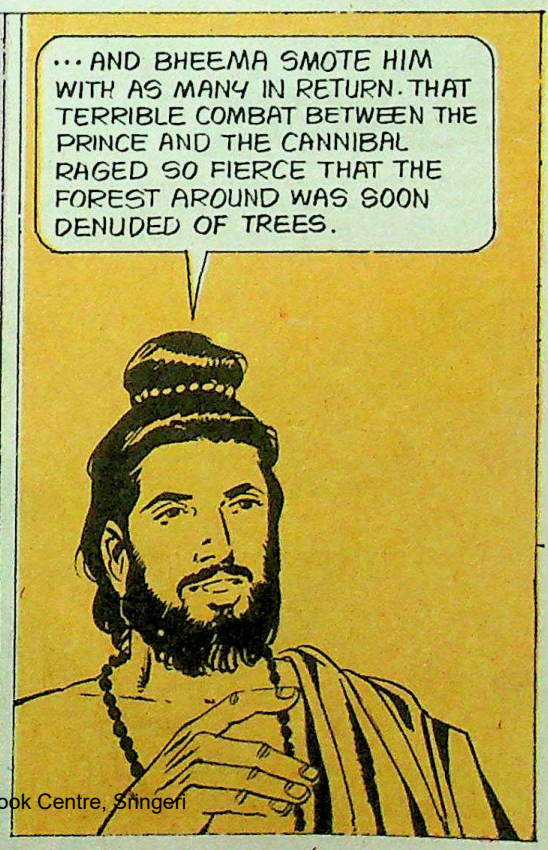

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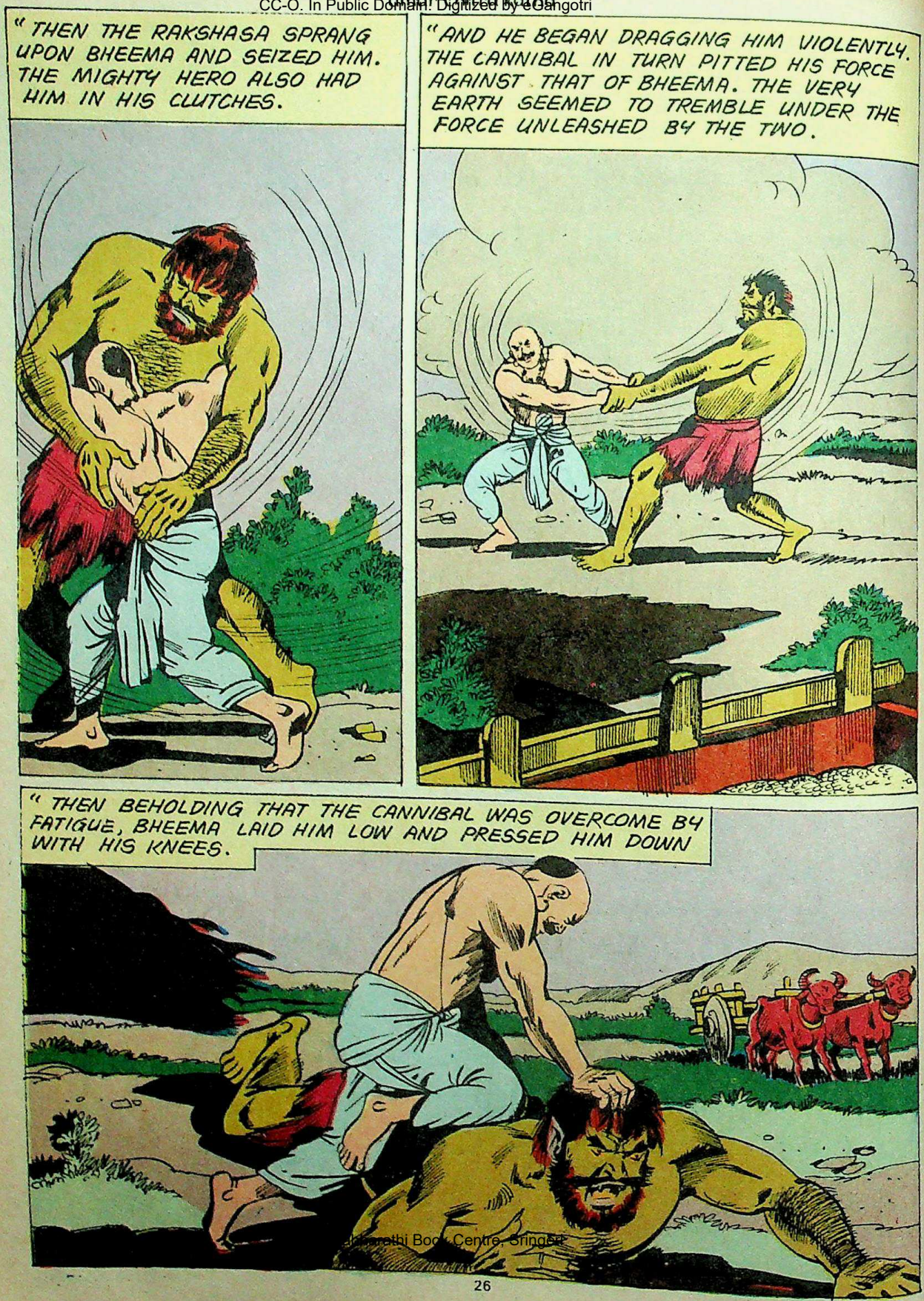

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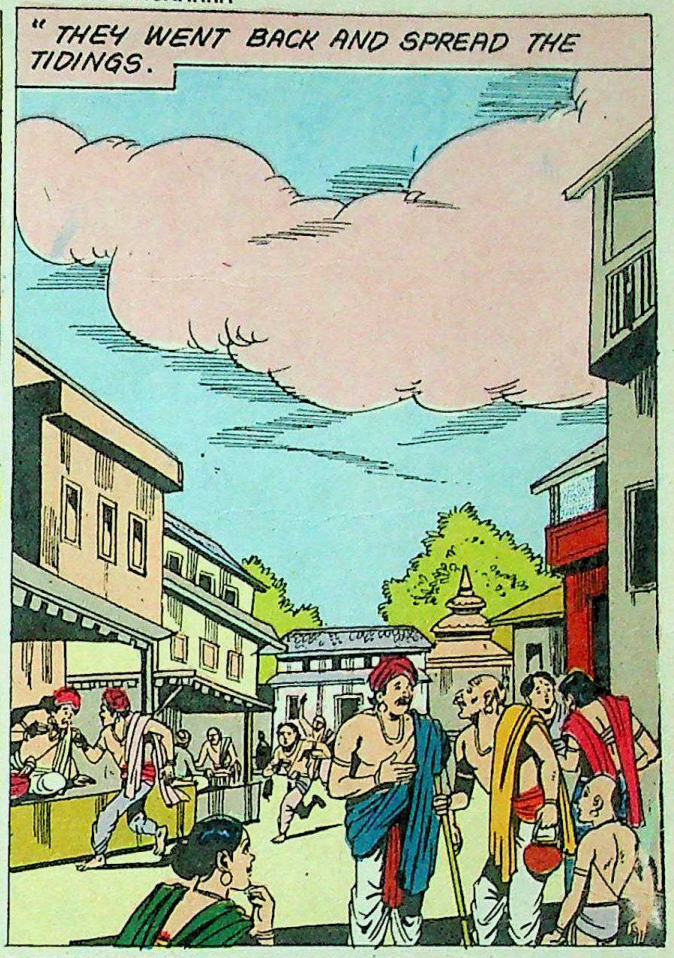

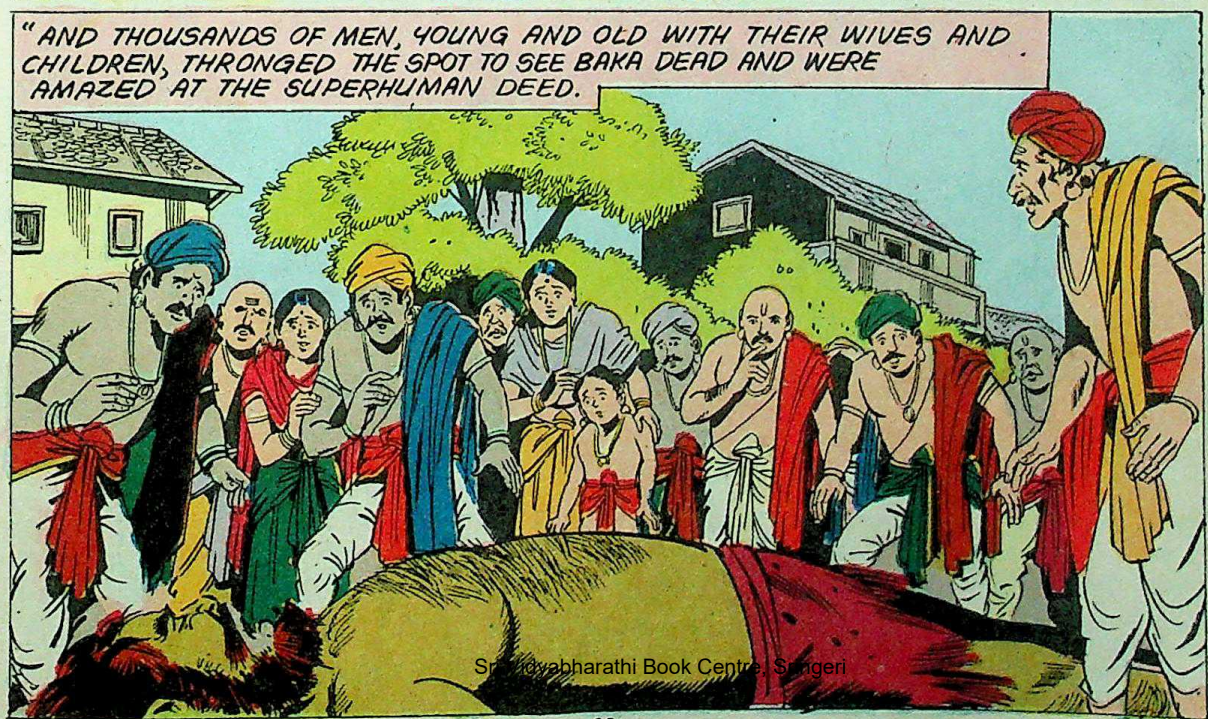

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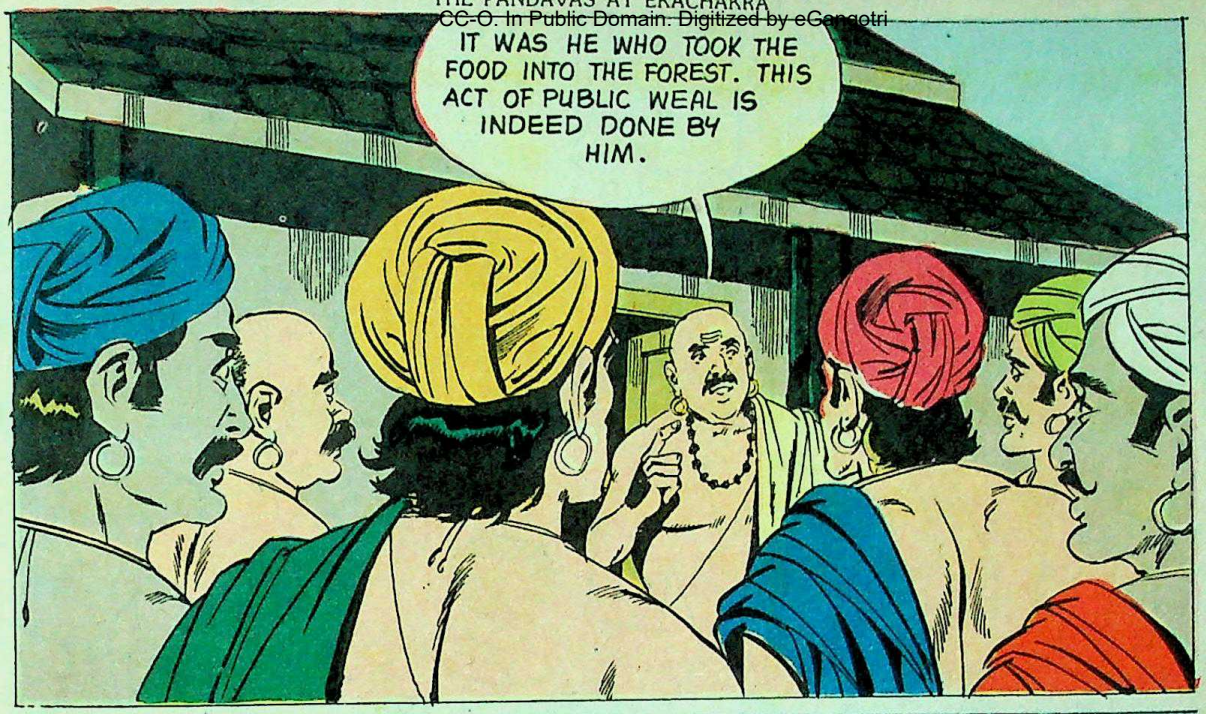

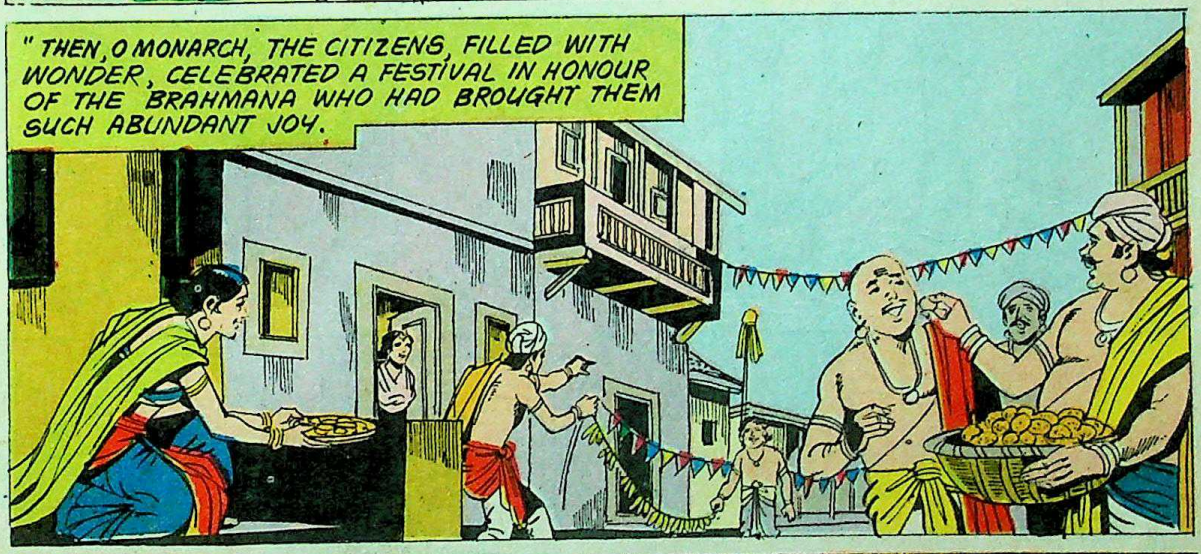

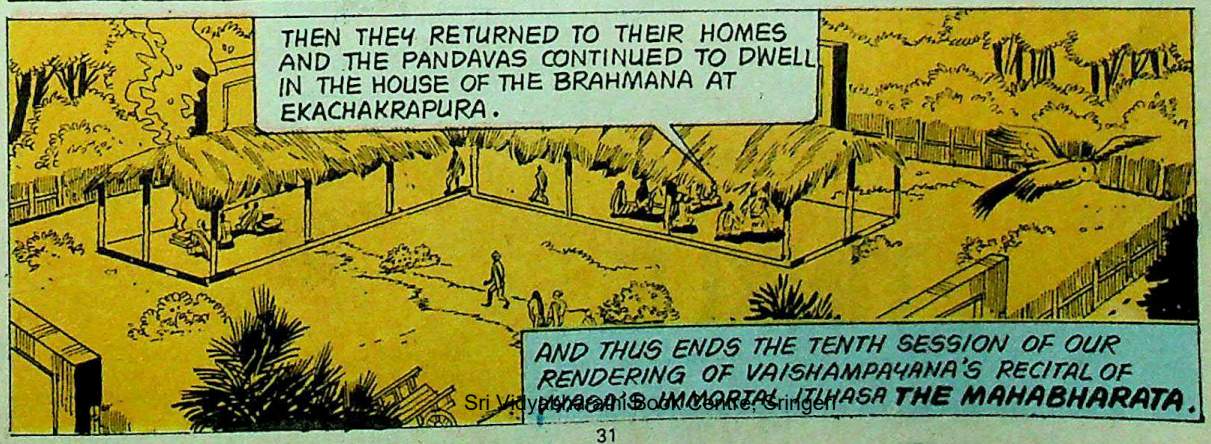

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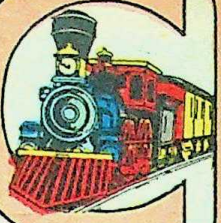

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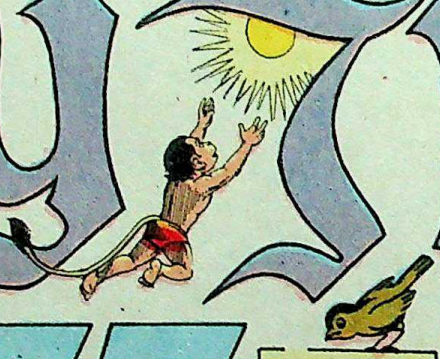

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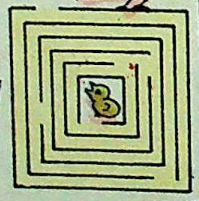

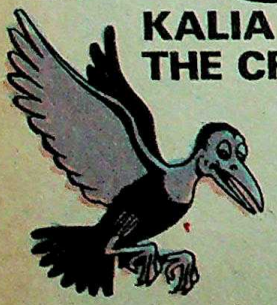

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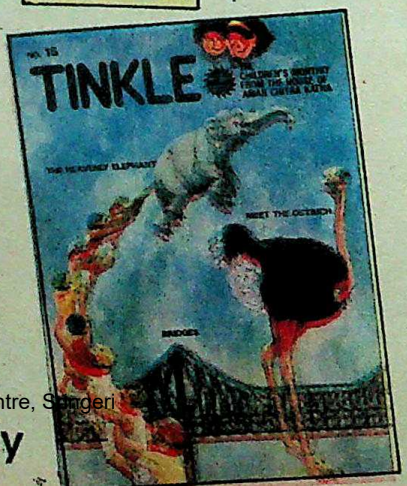

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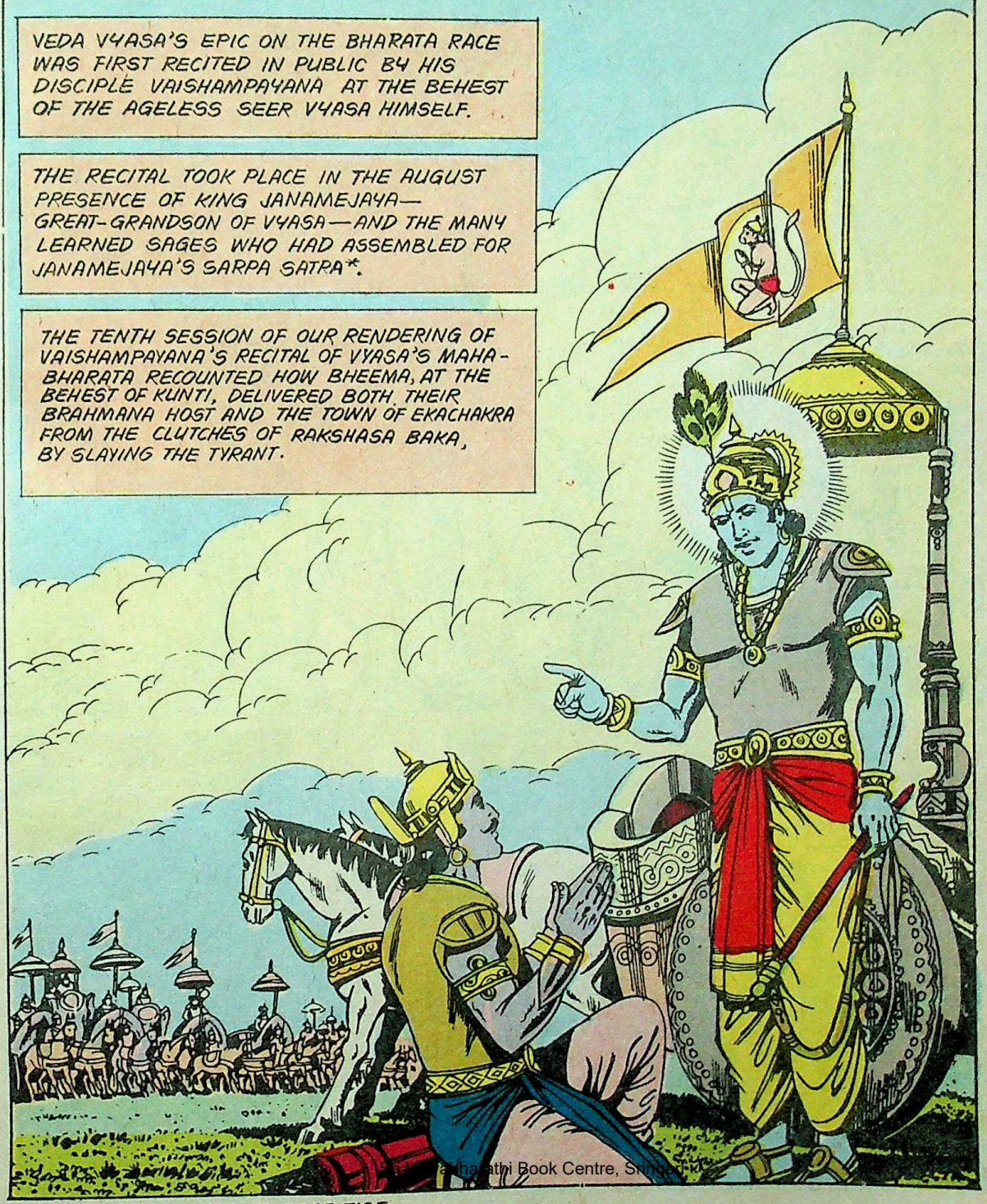
Mahabharata– 11

ENTER DRAUPADI

VEDA VYASA'S EPIC ON THE BHARATA RACE WAS FIRST RECITED IN PUBLIC BY HIS DISCIPLE VAISHAMPAYANA AT THE BEHEST OF THE AGELESS SEER VYASA HIMSELF.

THE RECITAL TOOK PLACE IN THE AUGUST PRESENCE OF KING JANAMEJAYA— GREAT-GRANDSON OF VYASA—AND THE MANY LEARNED SAGES WHO HAD ASSEMBLED FOR JANAMEJAYA'S SARPA SATRA*.

THE TENTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF VAISHAMPAYANA'S RECITAL OF VYASA'S MAHA-BHARATA RECOUNTED HOW BHEEMA, AT THE BEHEST OF KUNTI, DELIVERED BOTH THEIR BRAHMANA HOST AND THE TOWN OF EKACHAKRA FROM THE CLUTCHES OF RAKSHASA BAKA, BY SLAYING THE TYRANT.



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*12-YEAR-LONG SNAKE SACRIFICE

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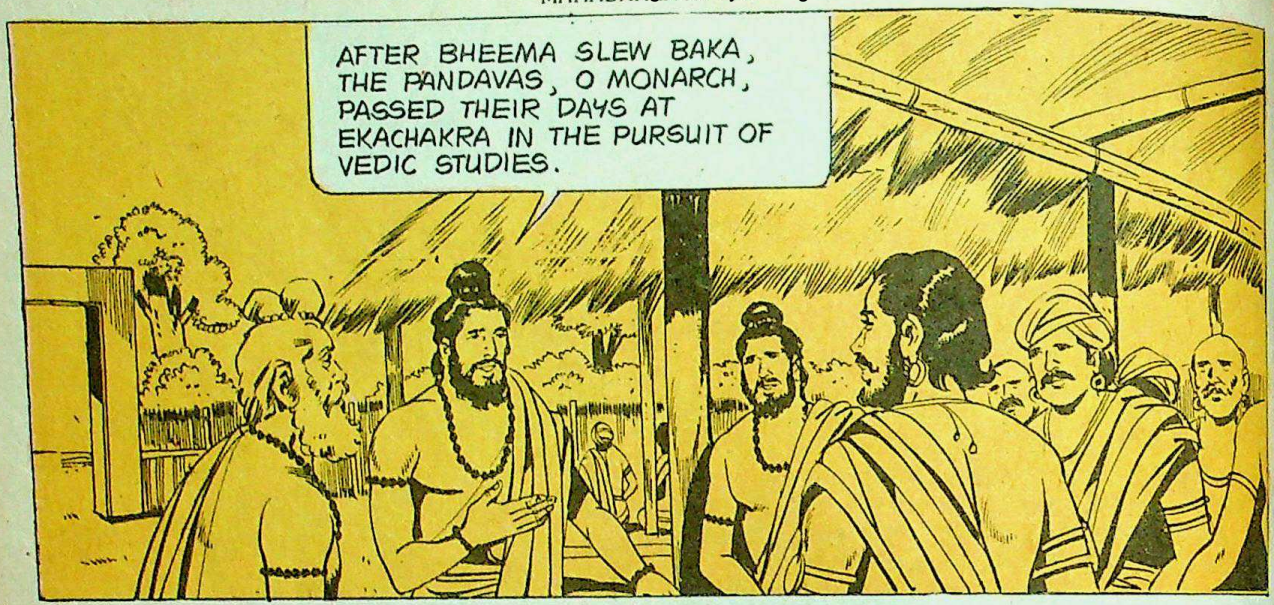

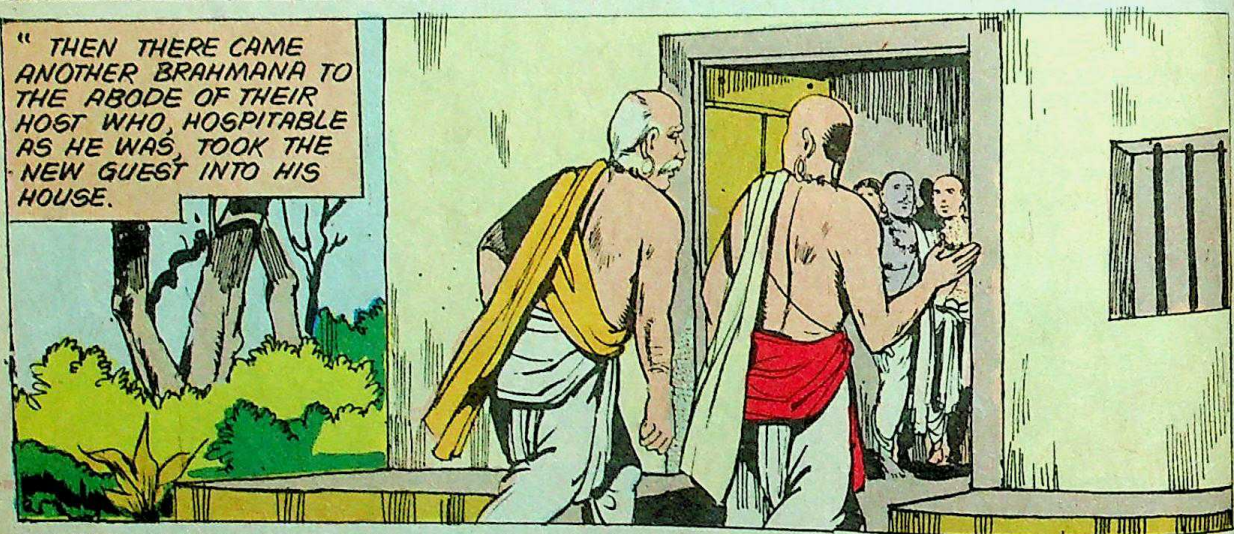

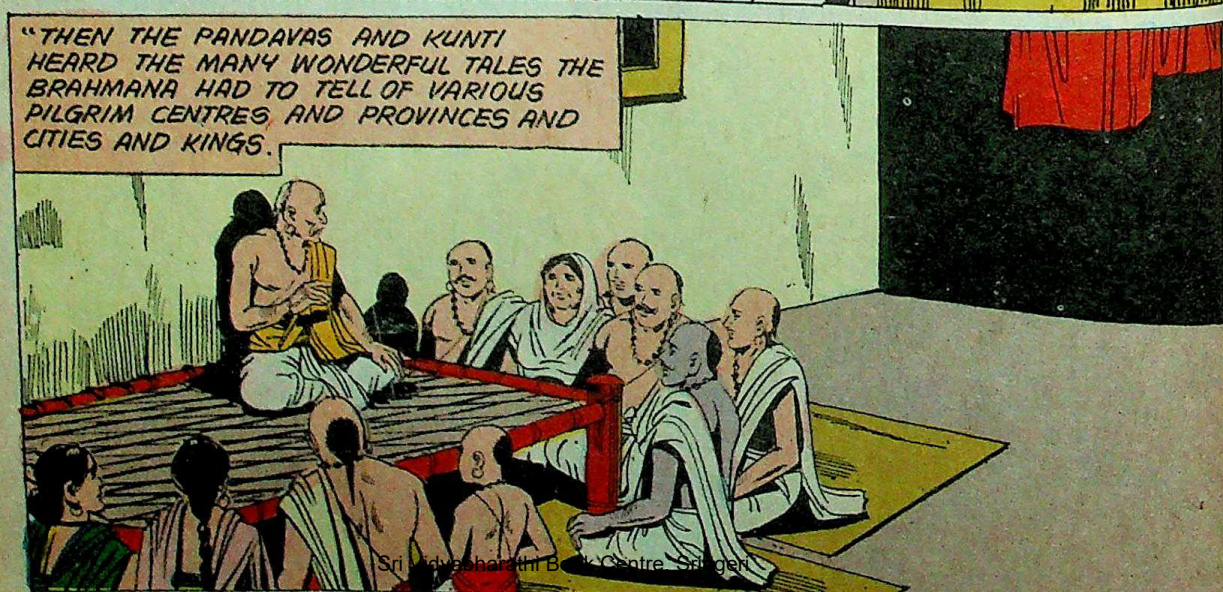

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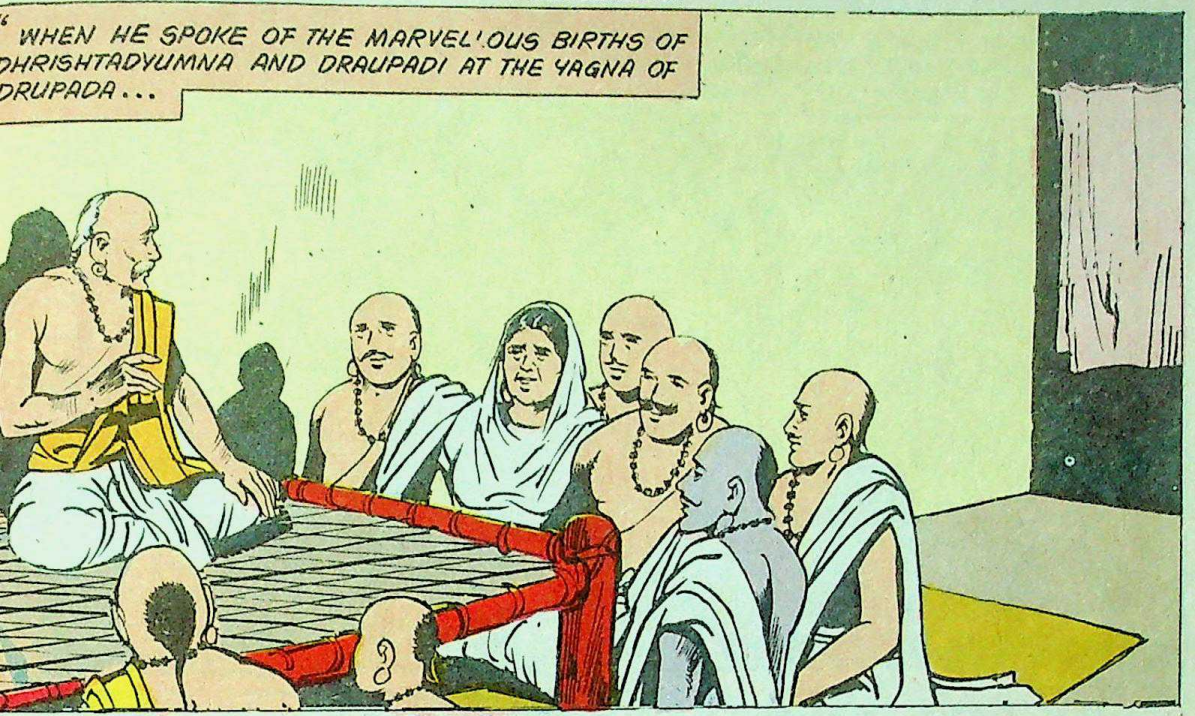

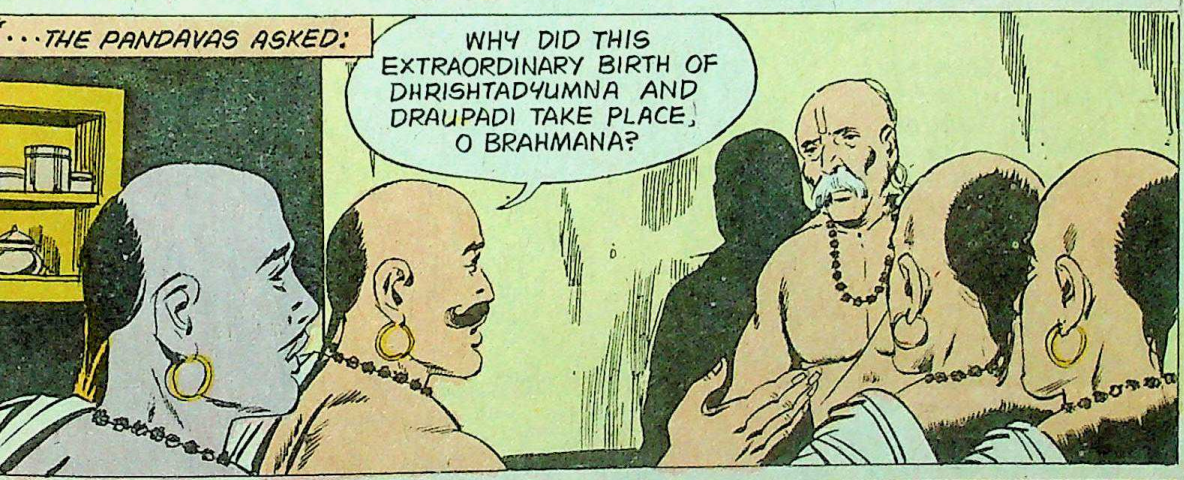

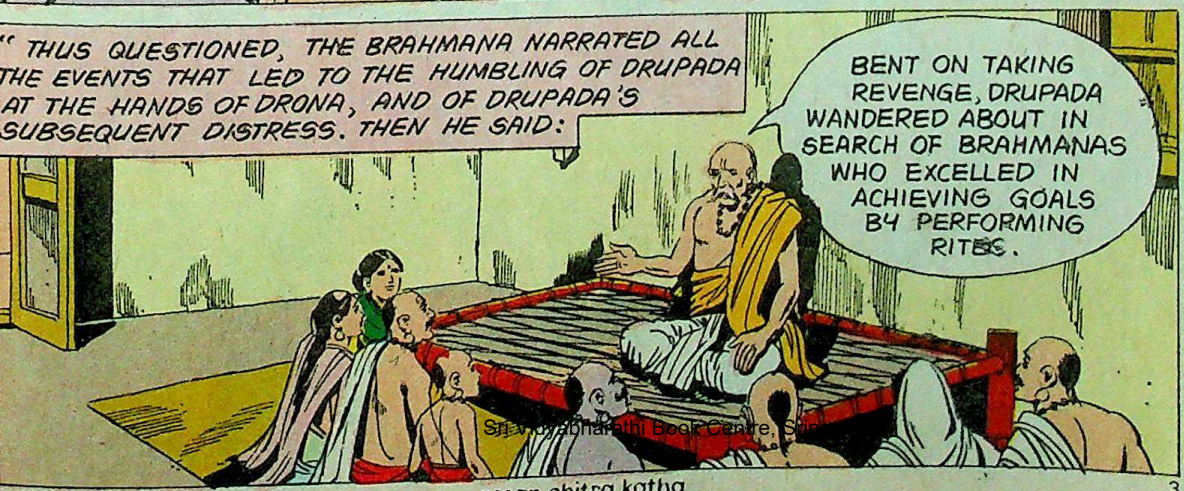

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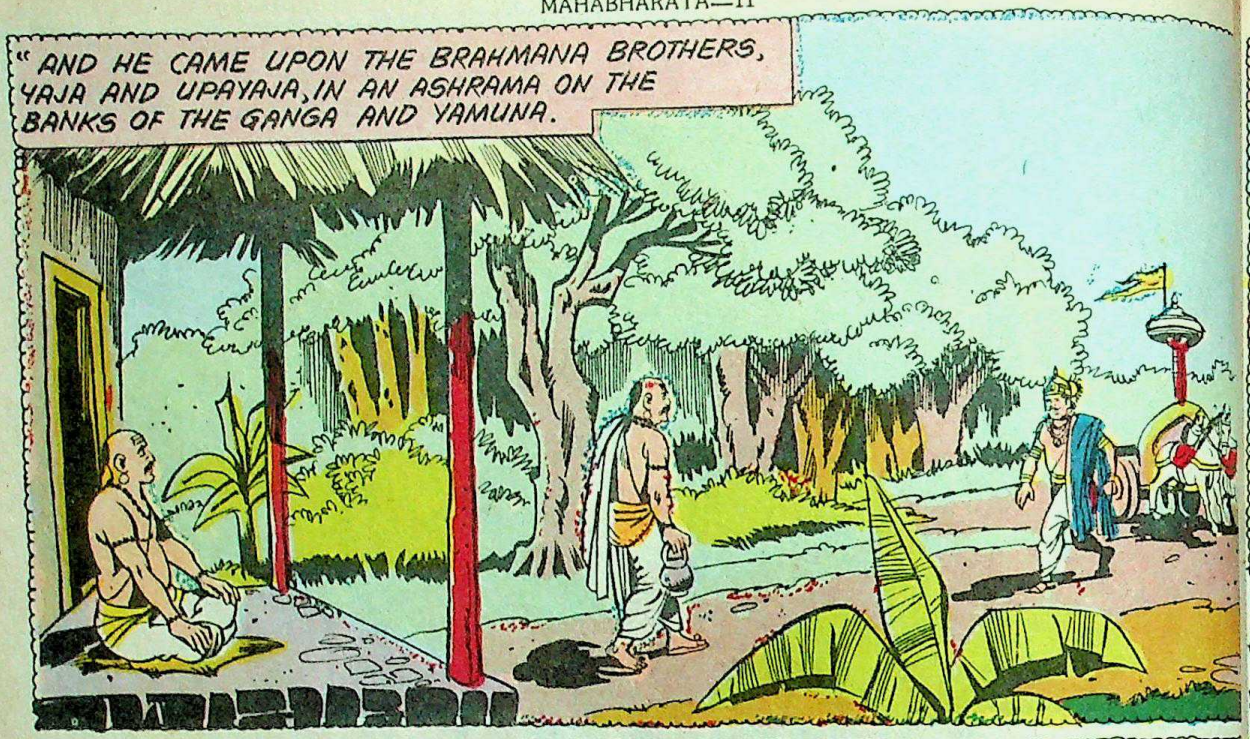

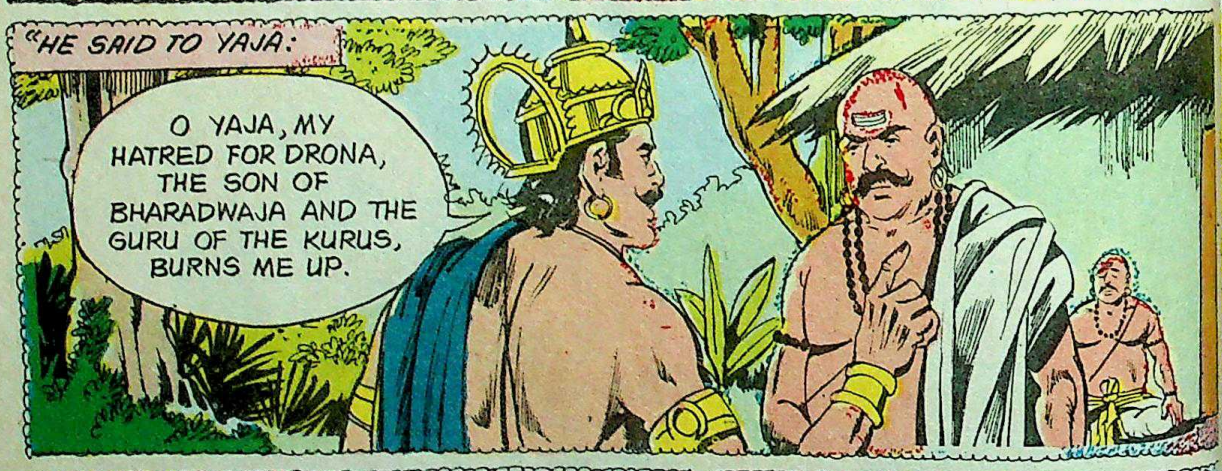

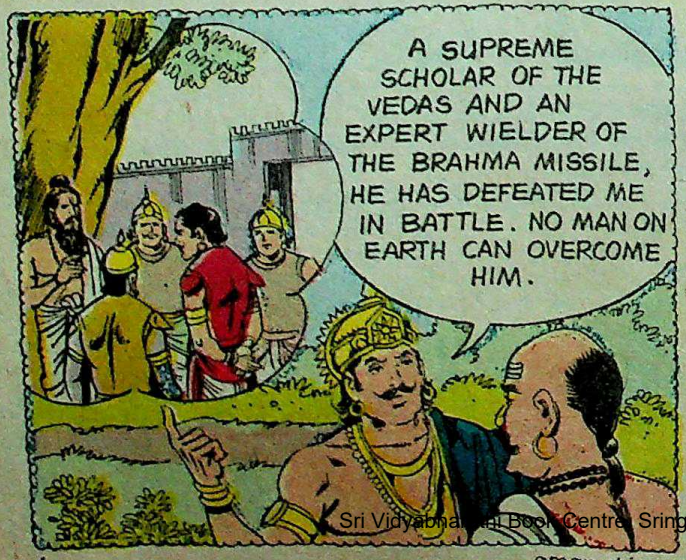

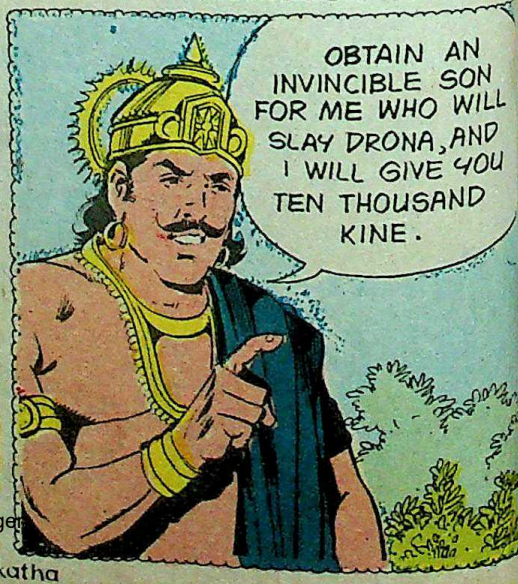

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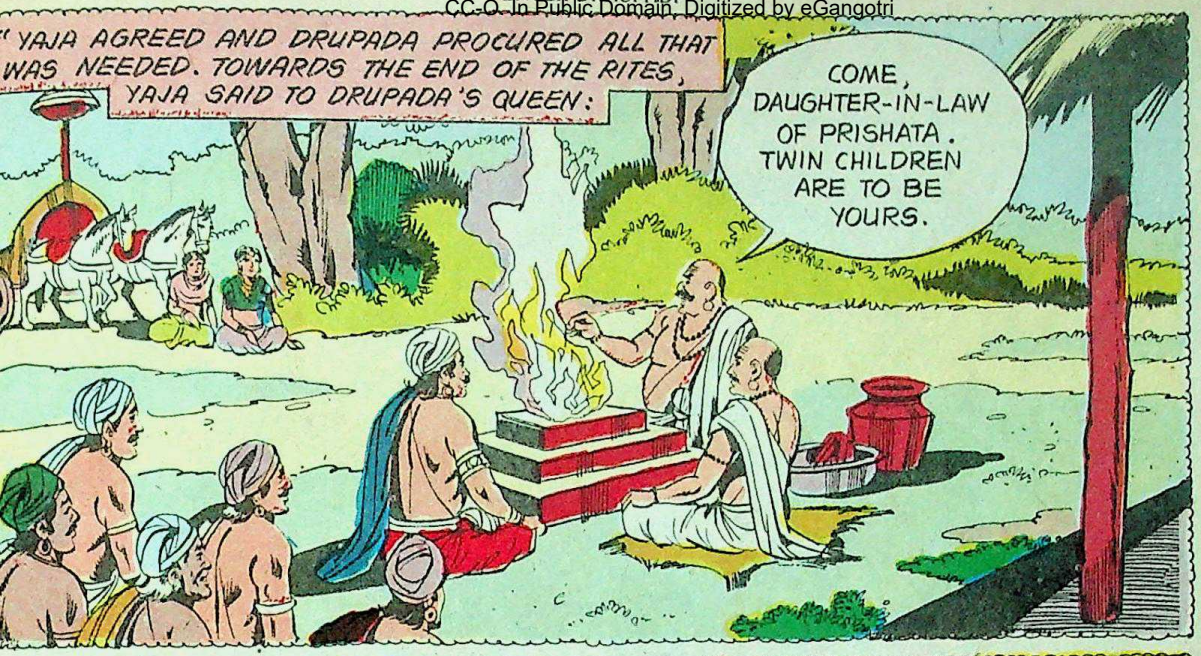

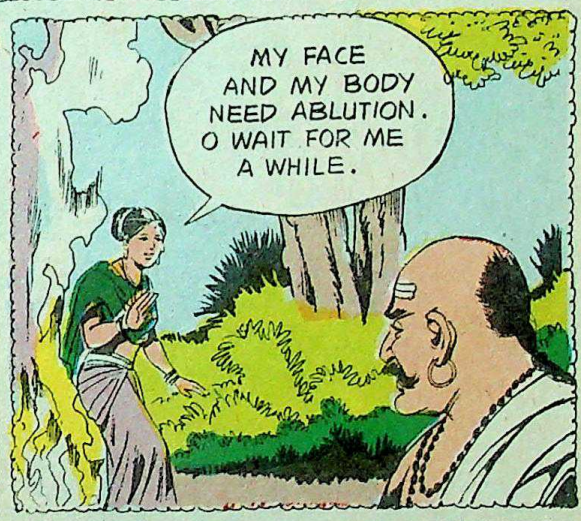

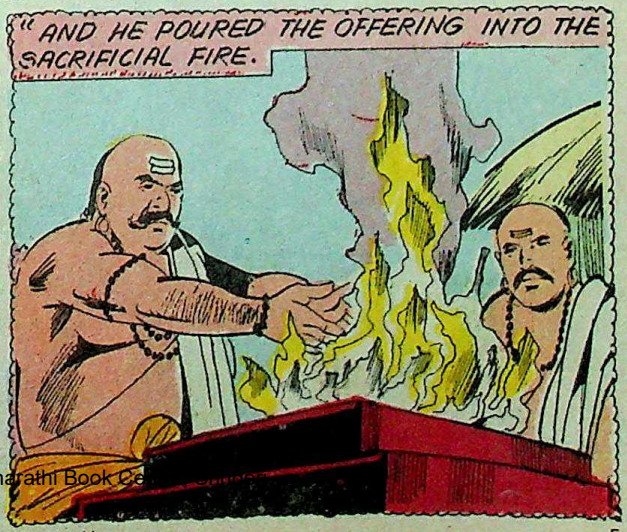

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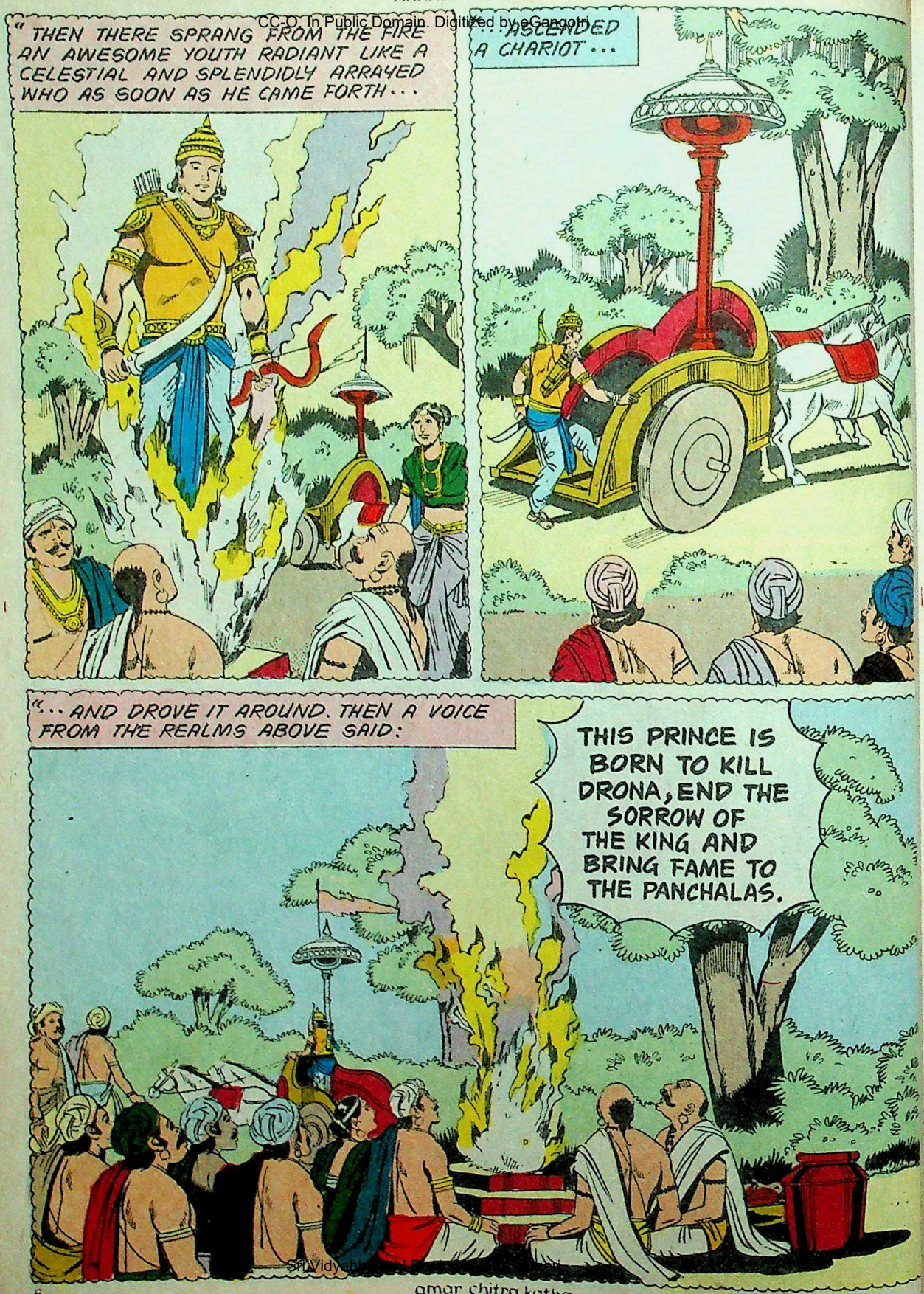

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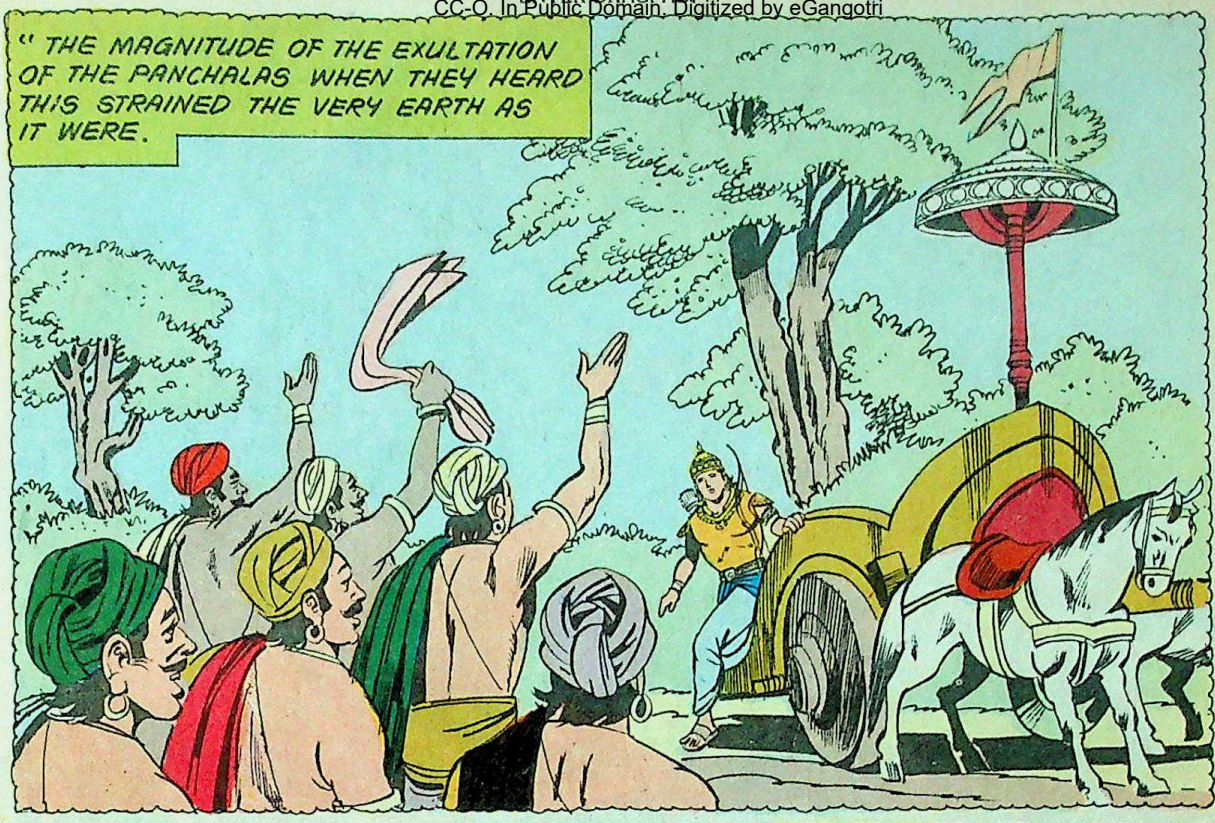

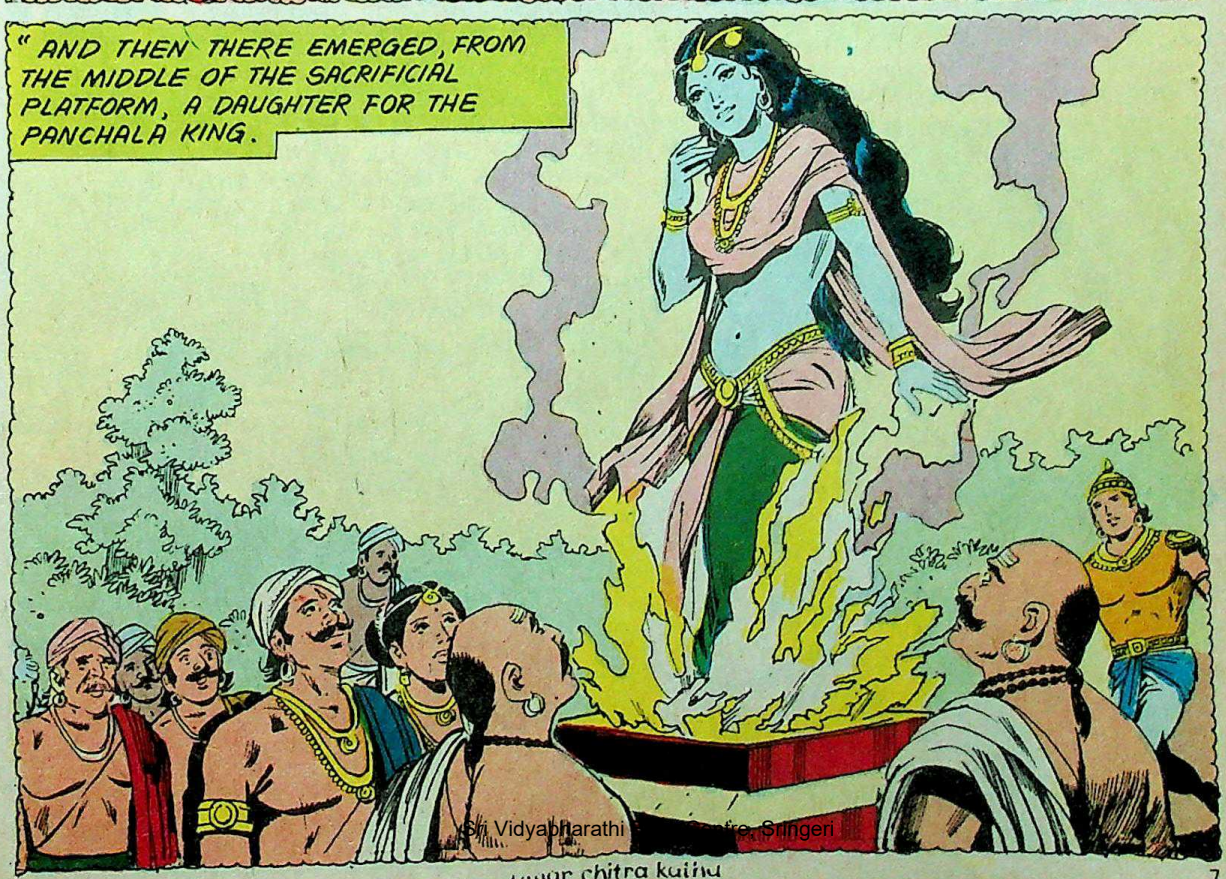

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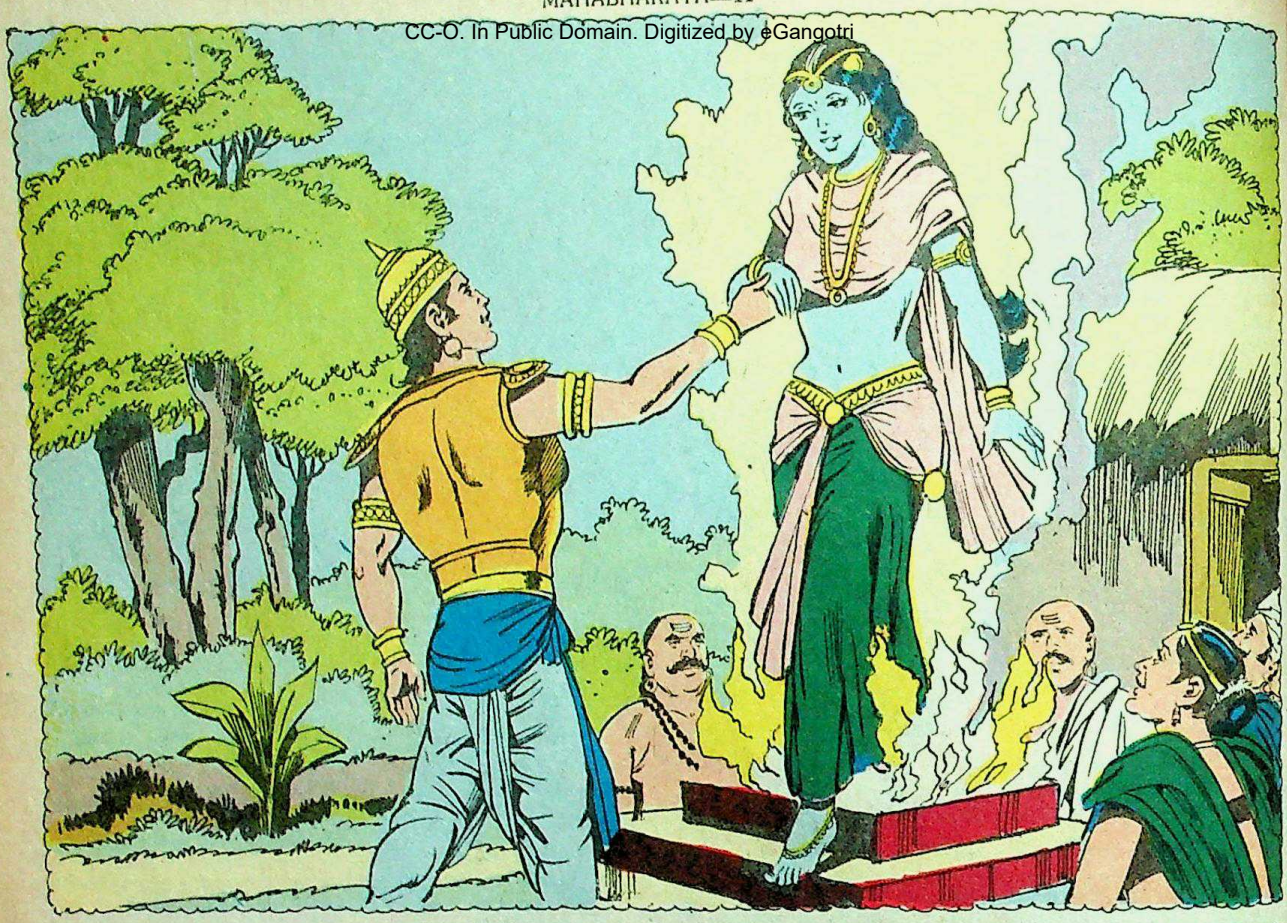

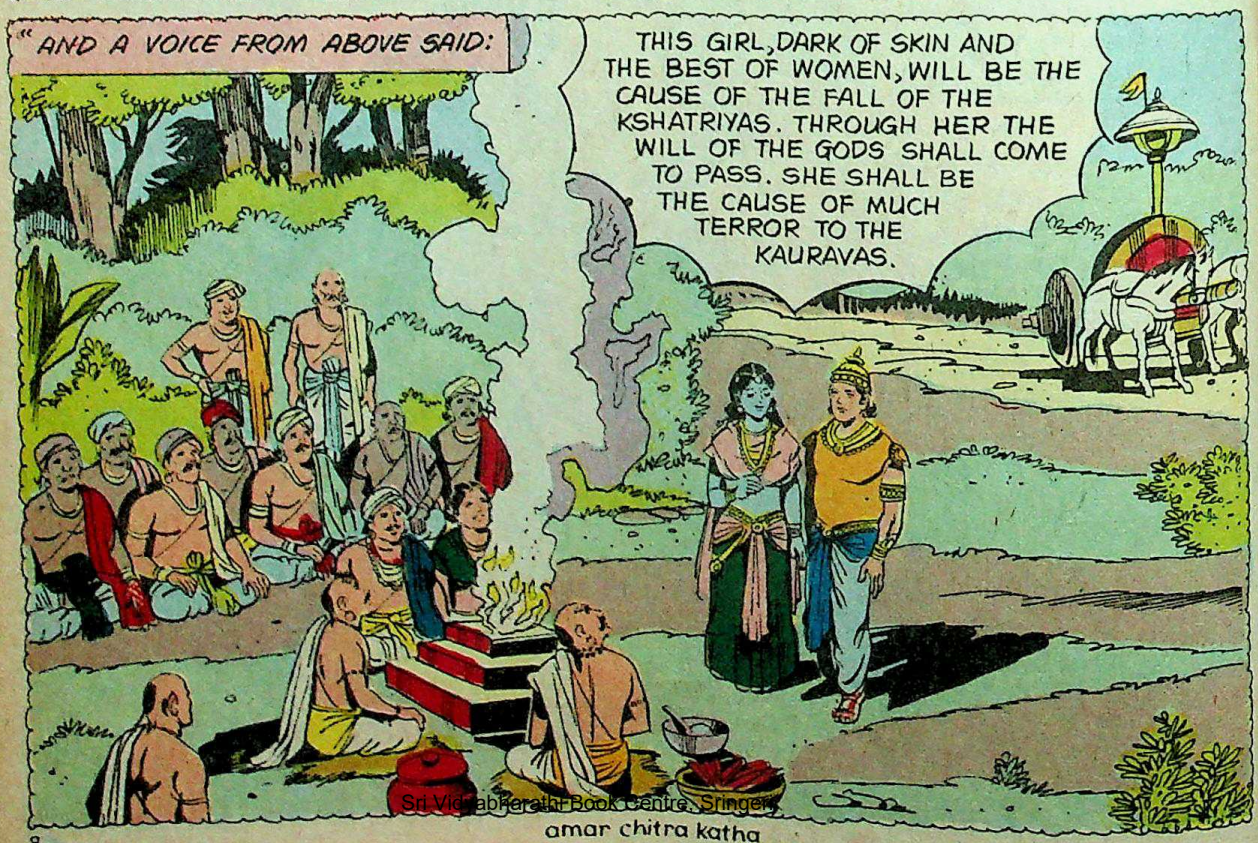

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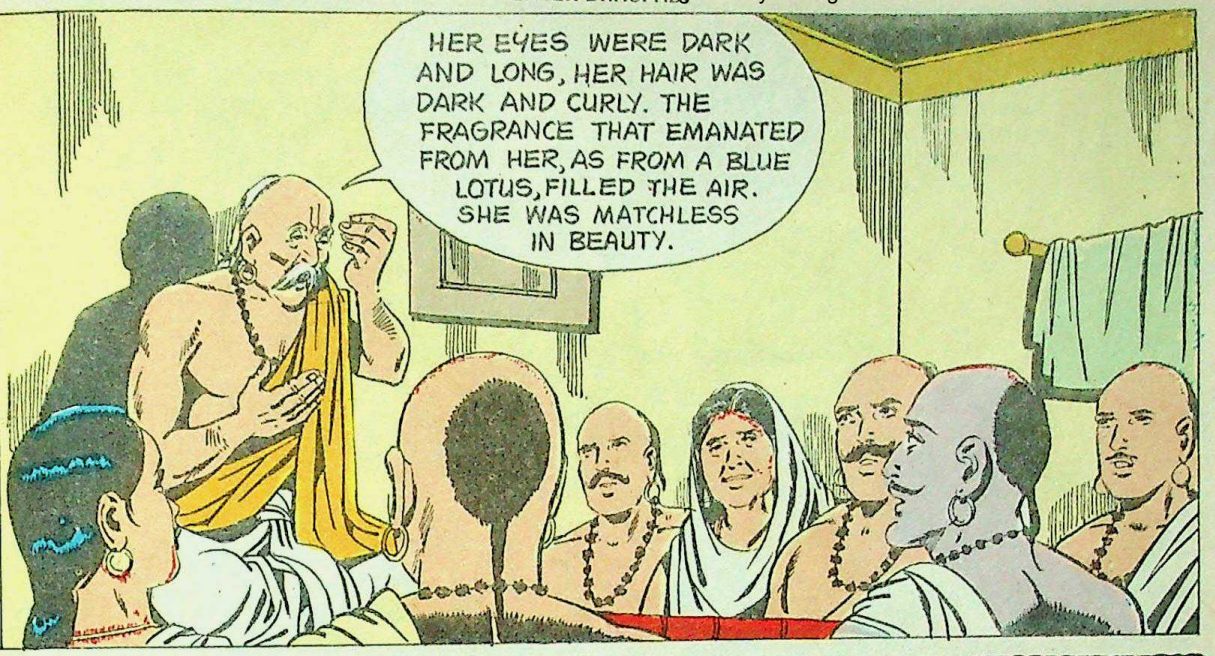

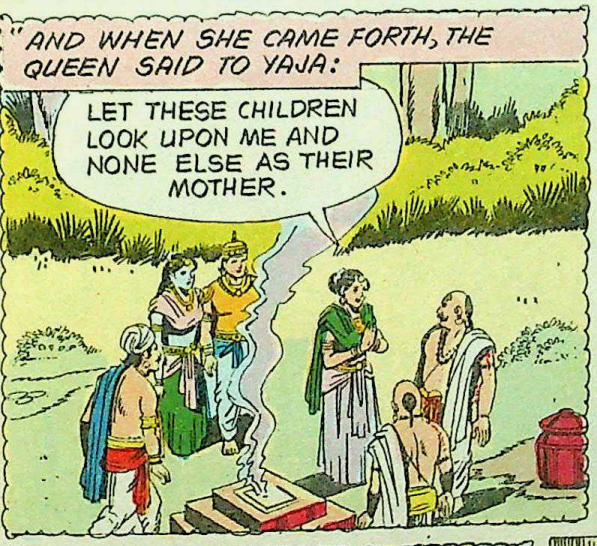

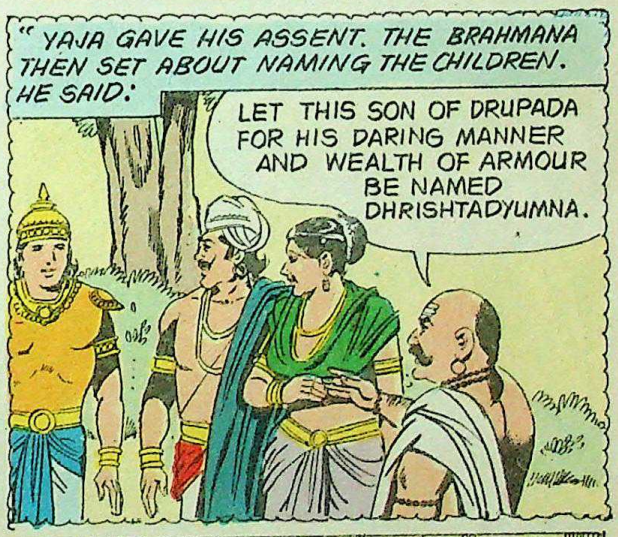

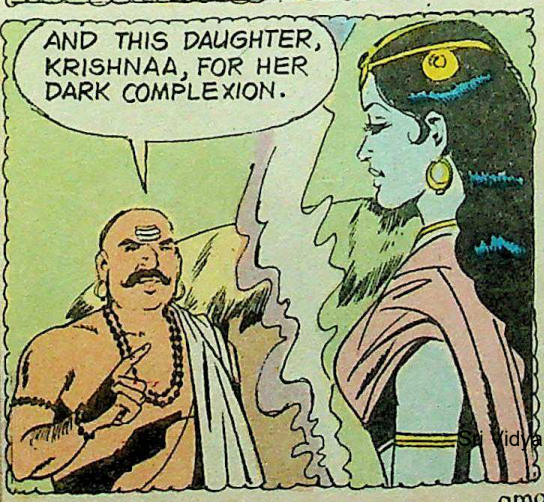

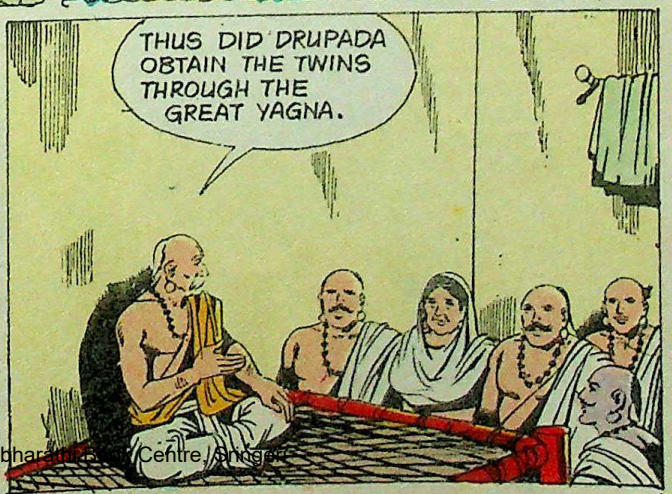

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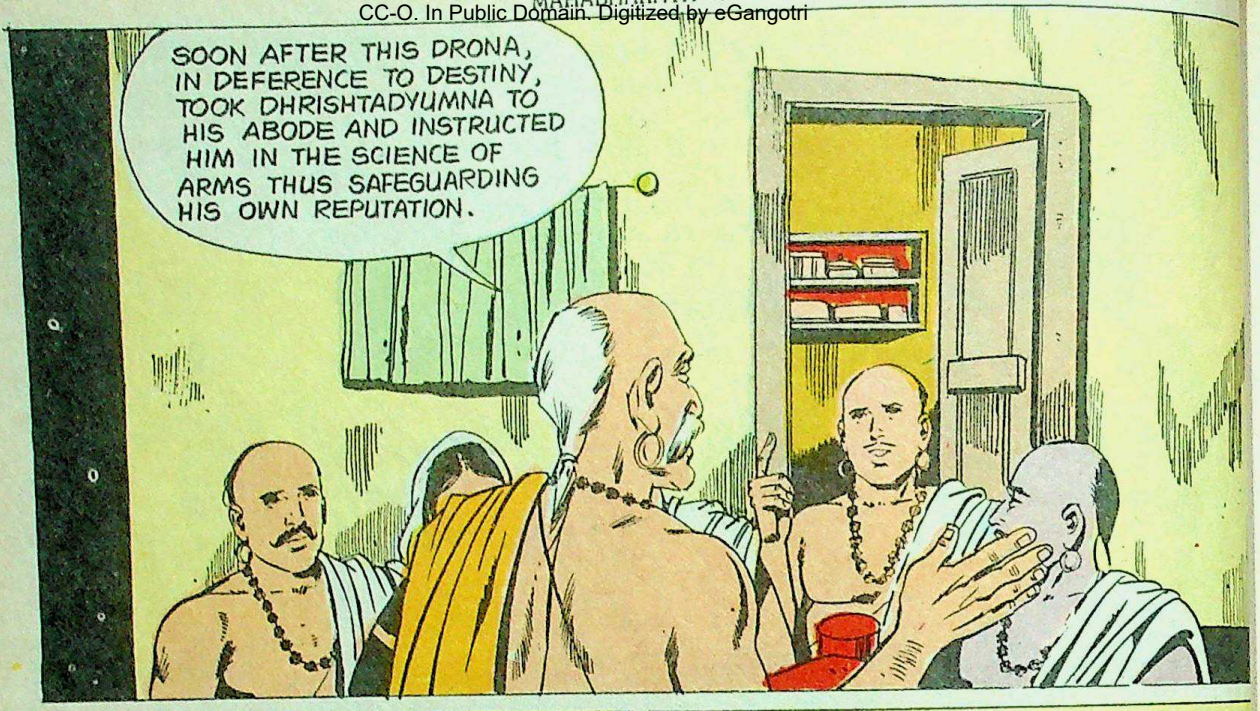

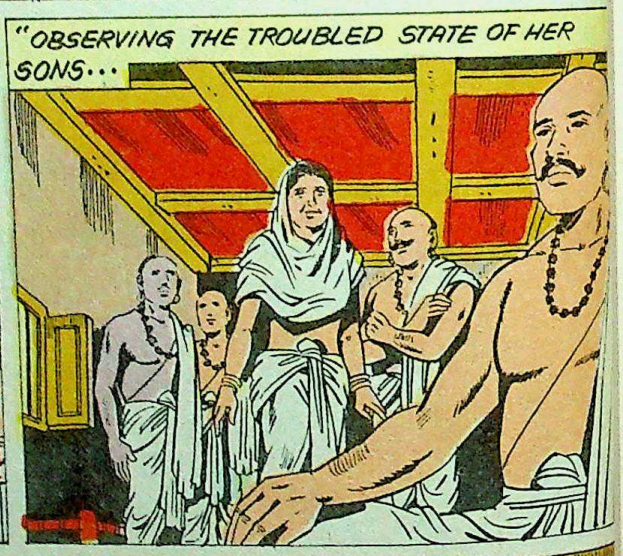

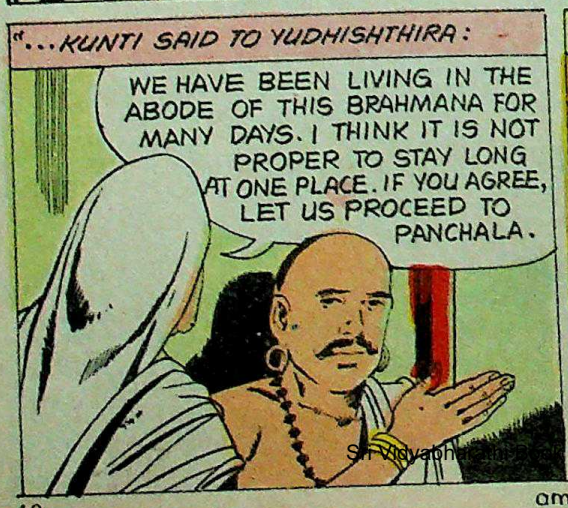

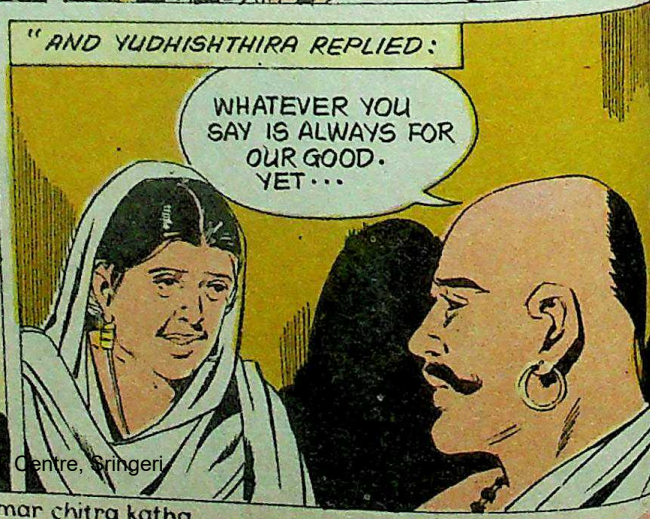

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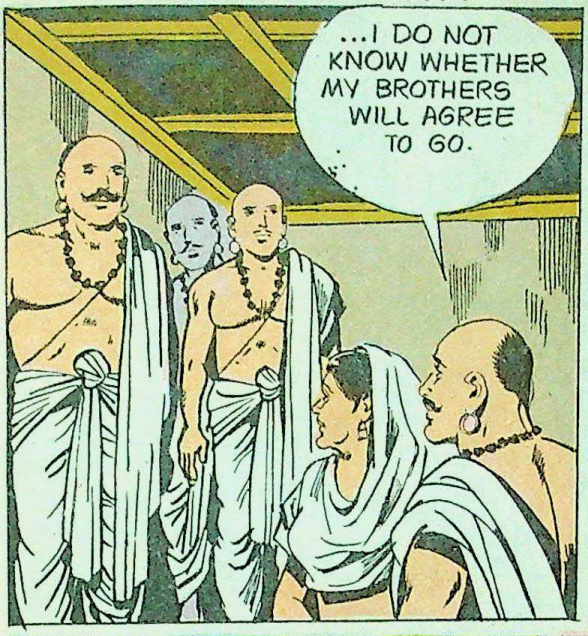

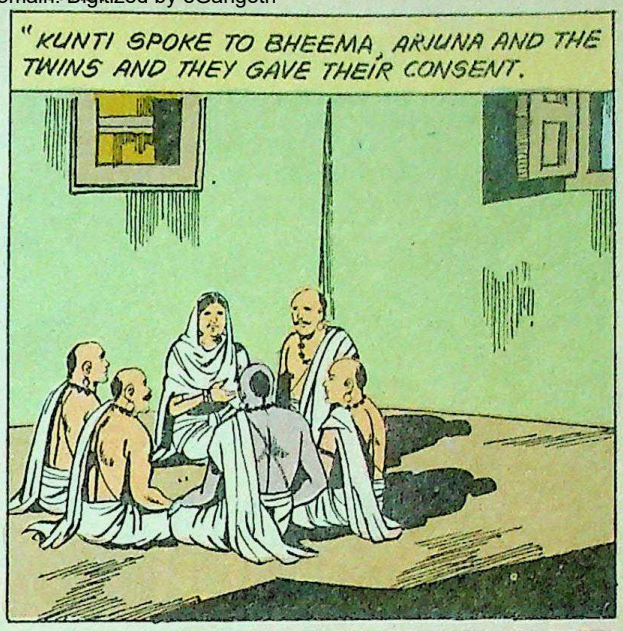

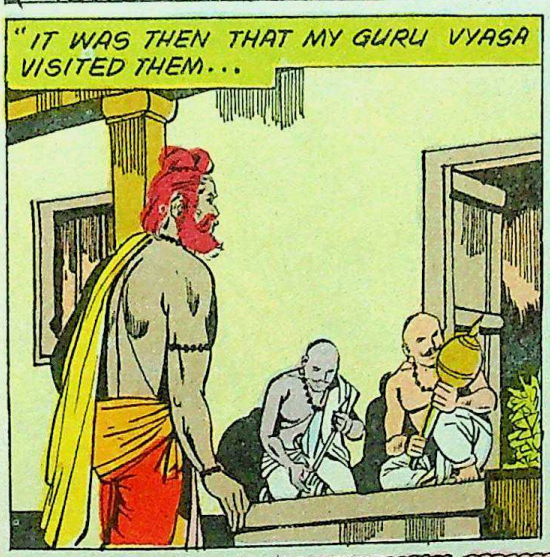

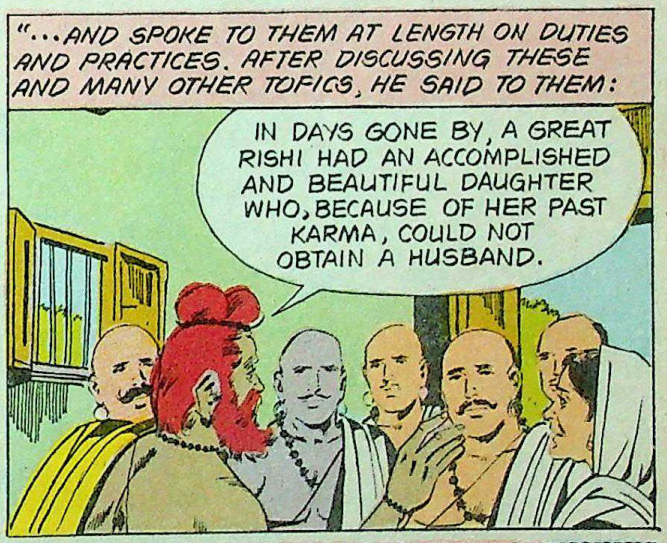

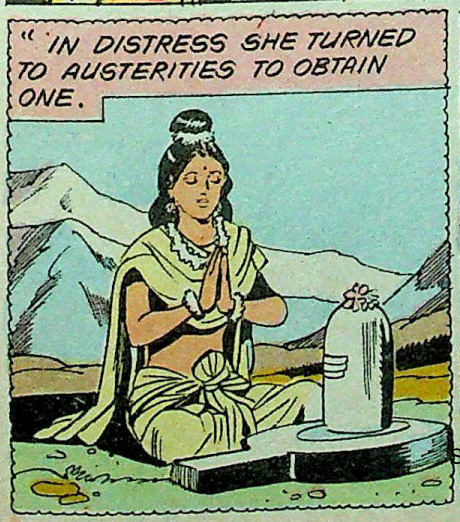

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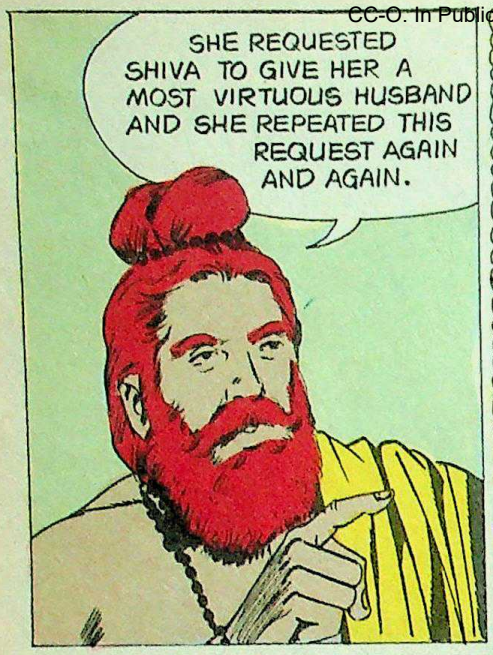

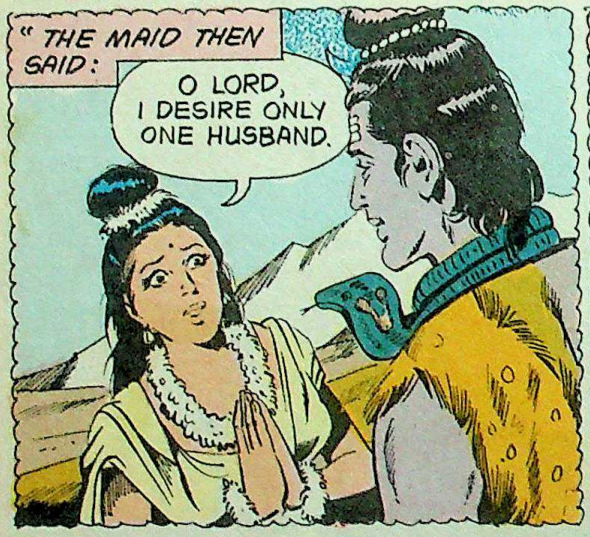

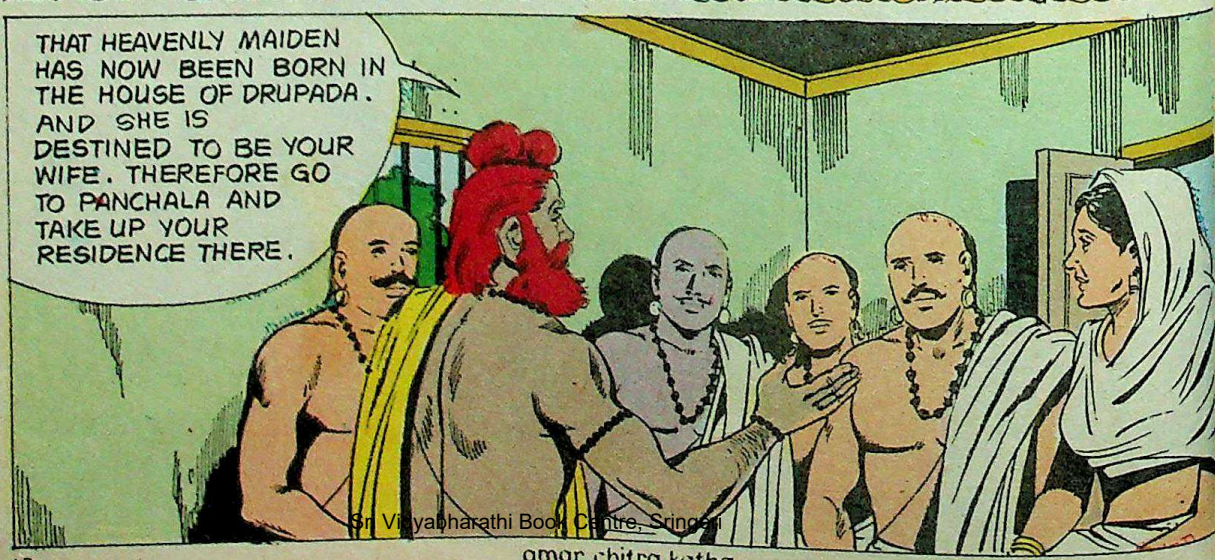

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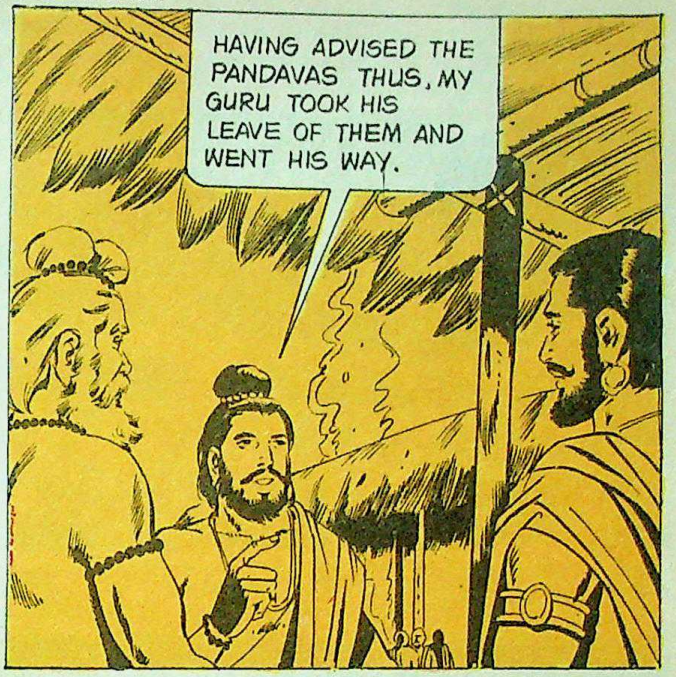

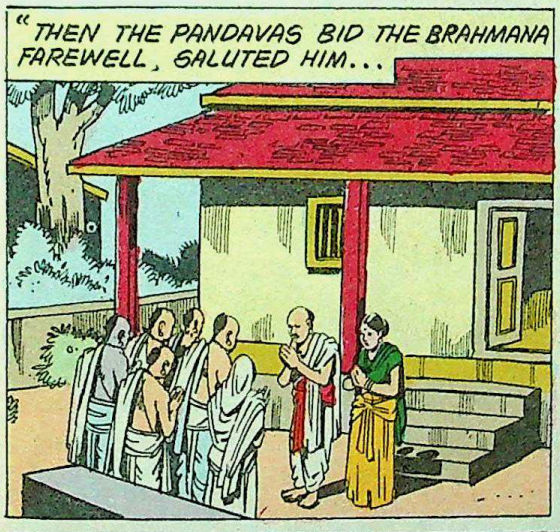

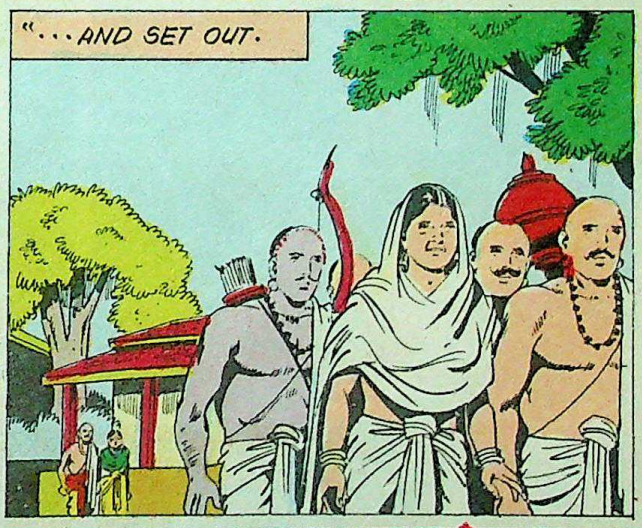

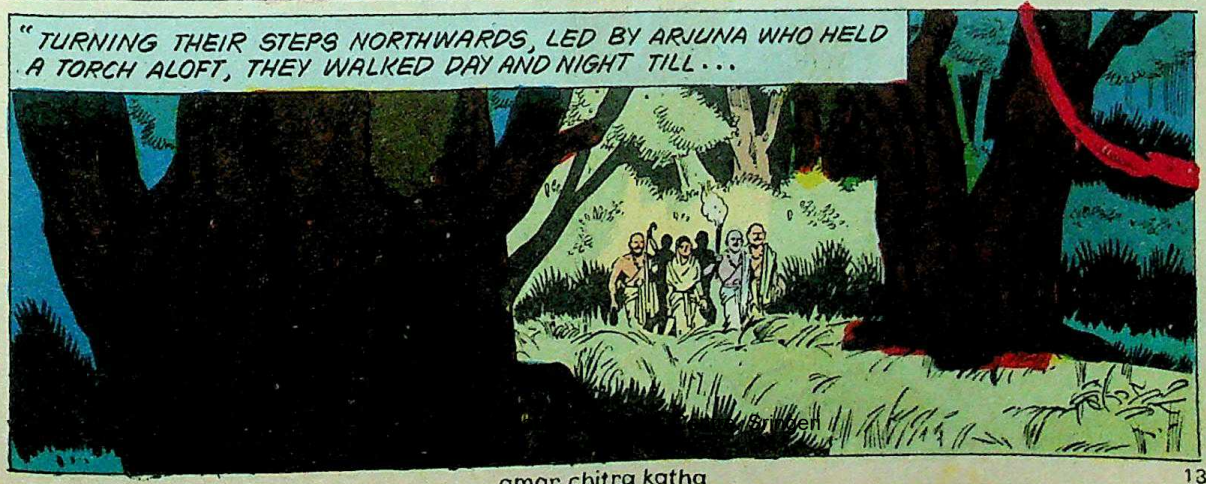

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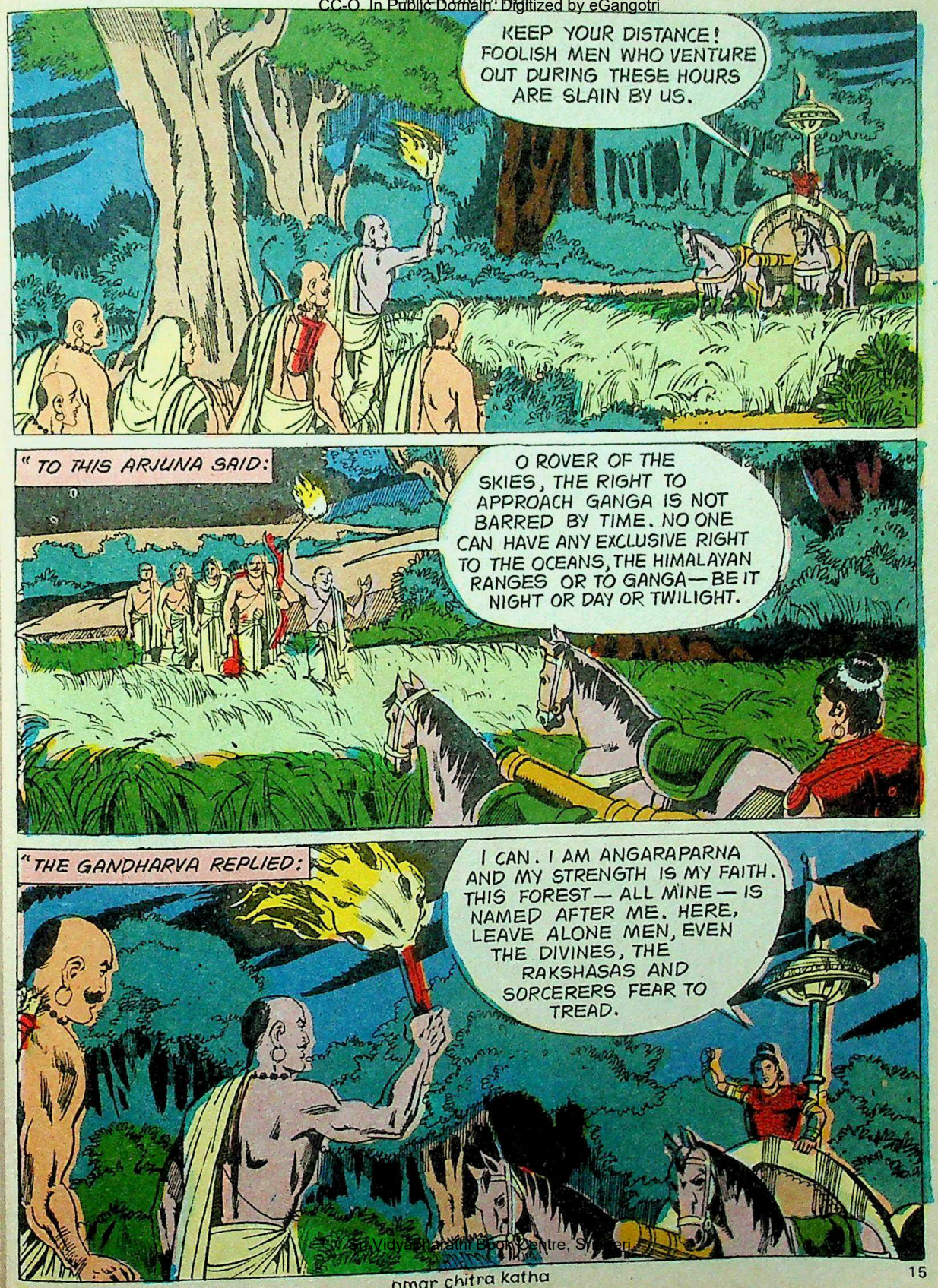

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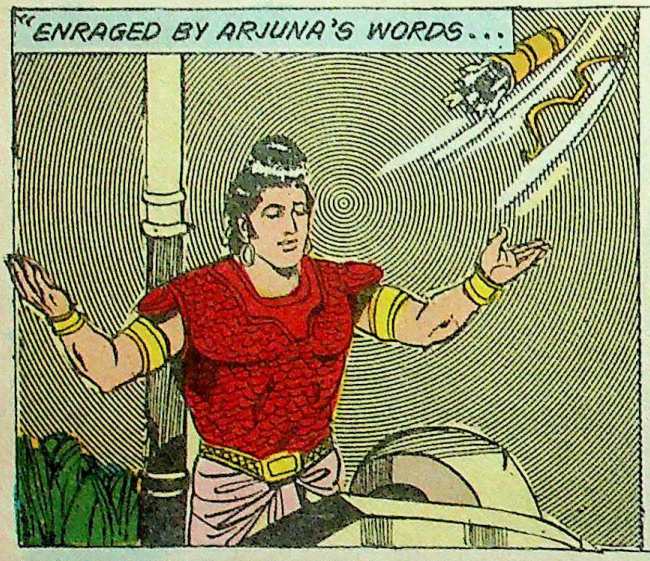

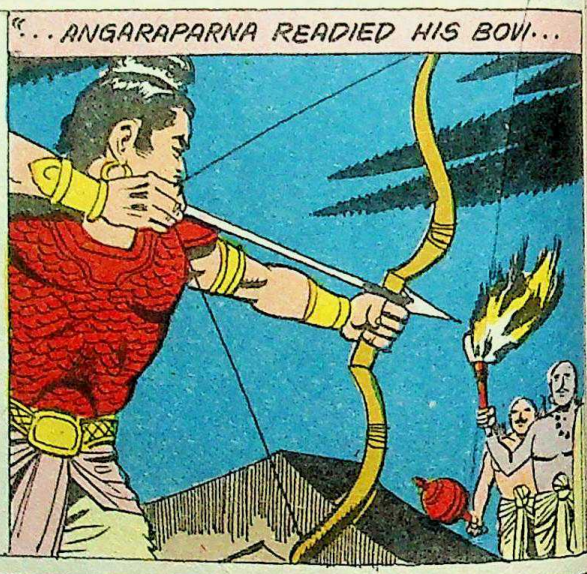

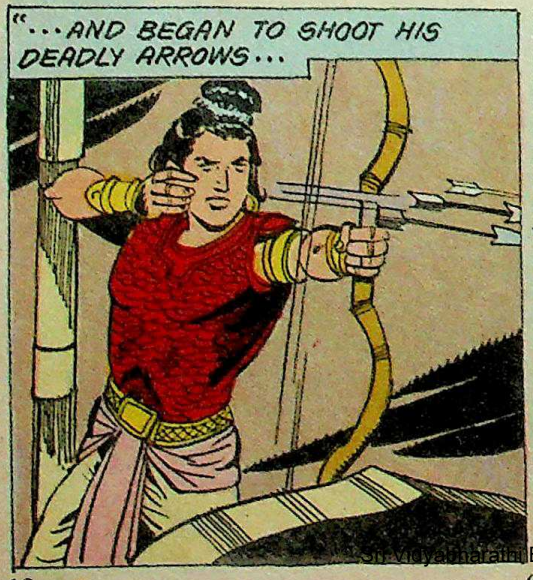

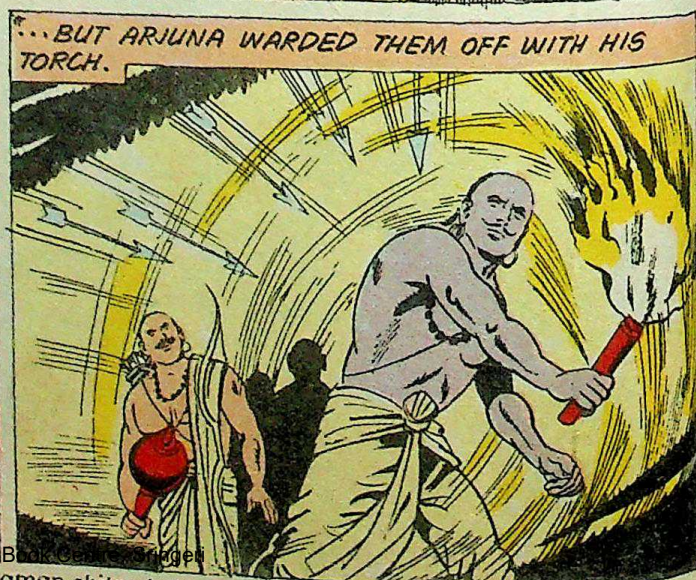

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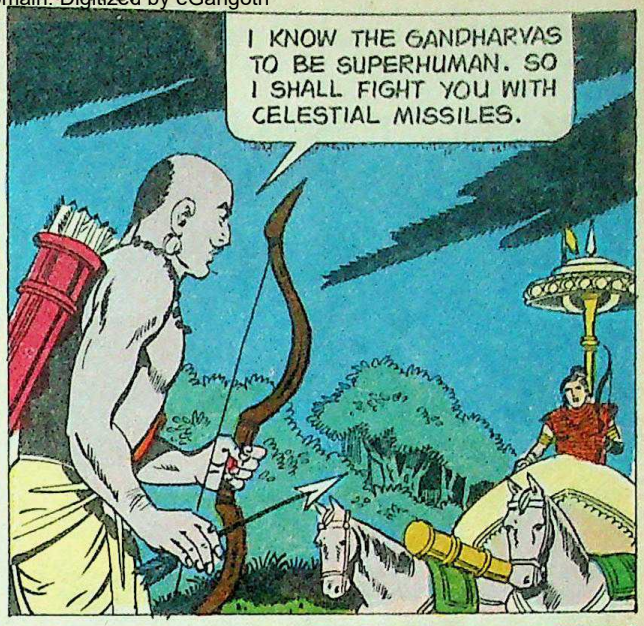

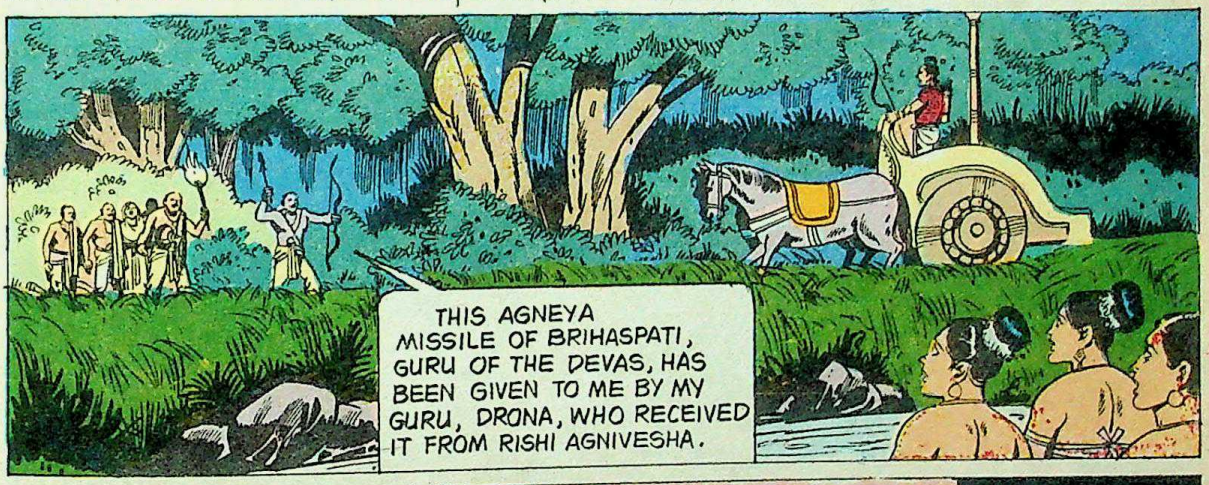

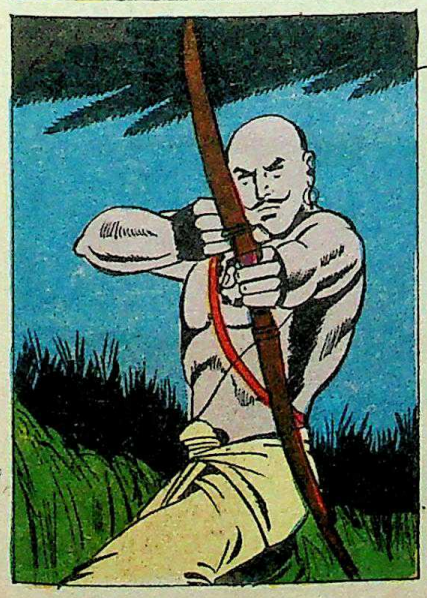

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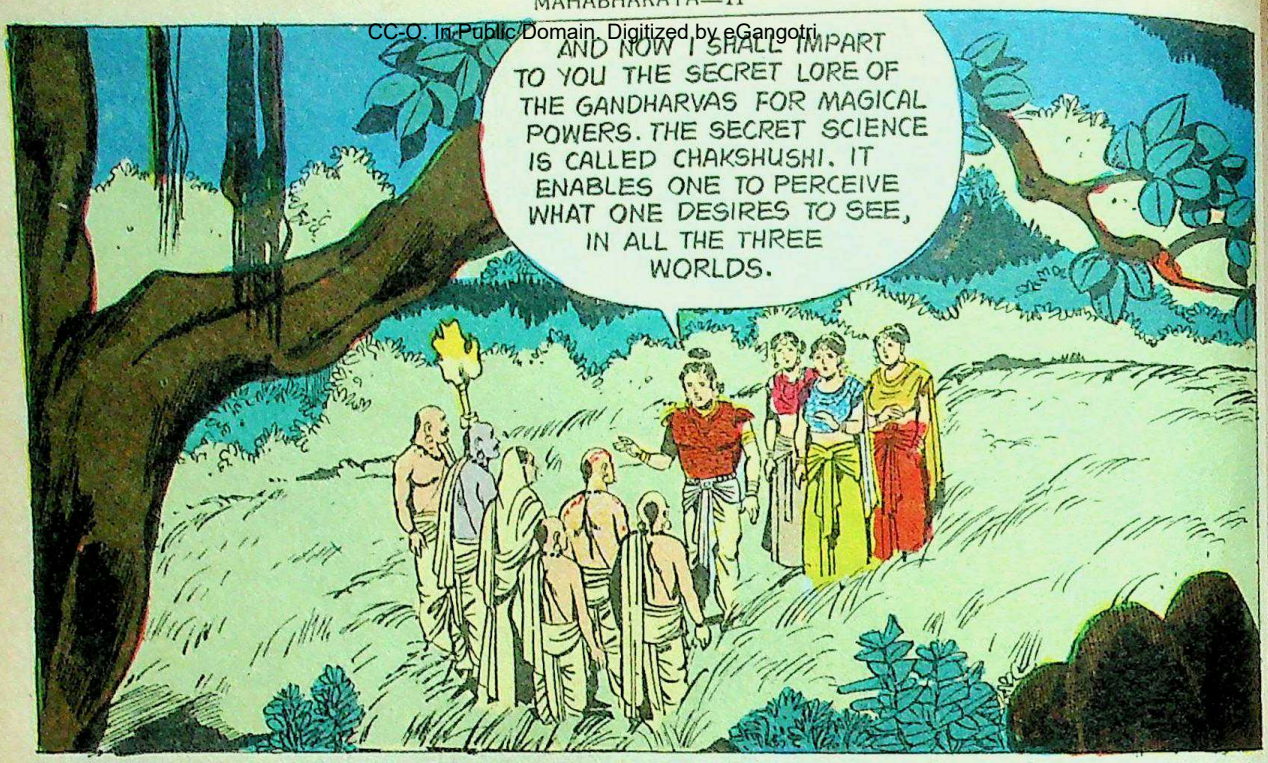

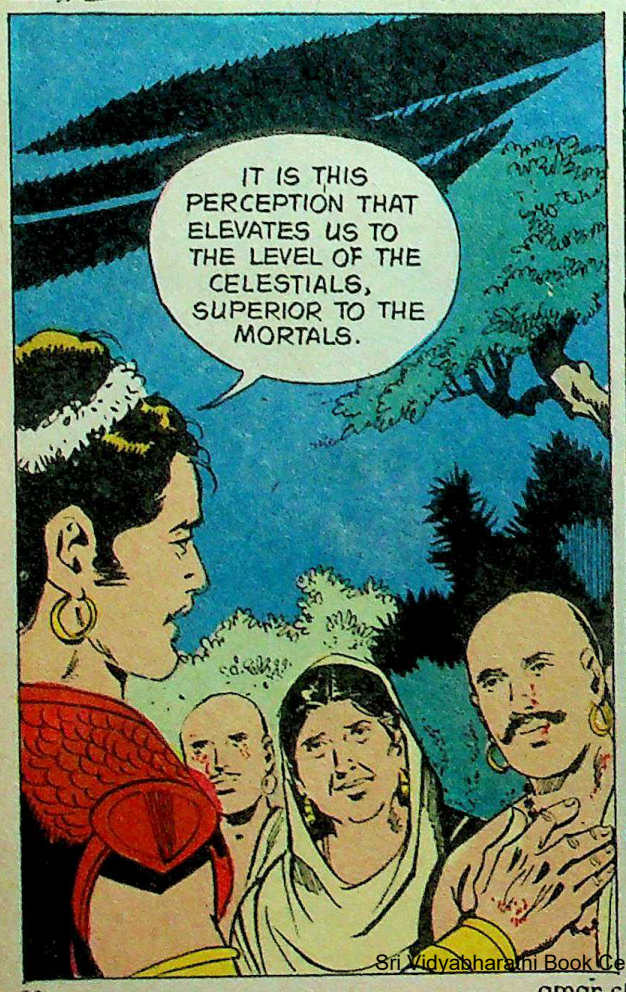

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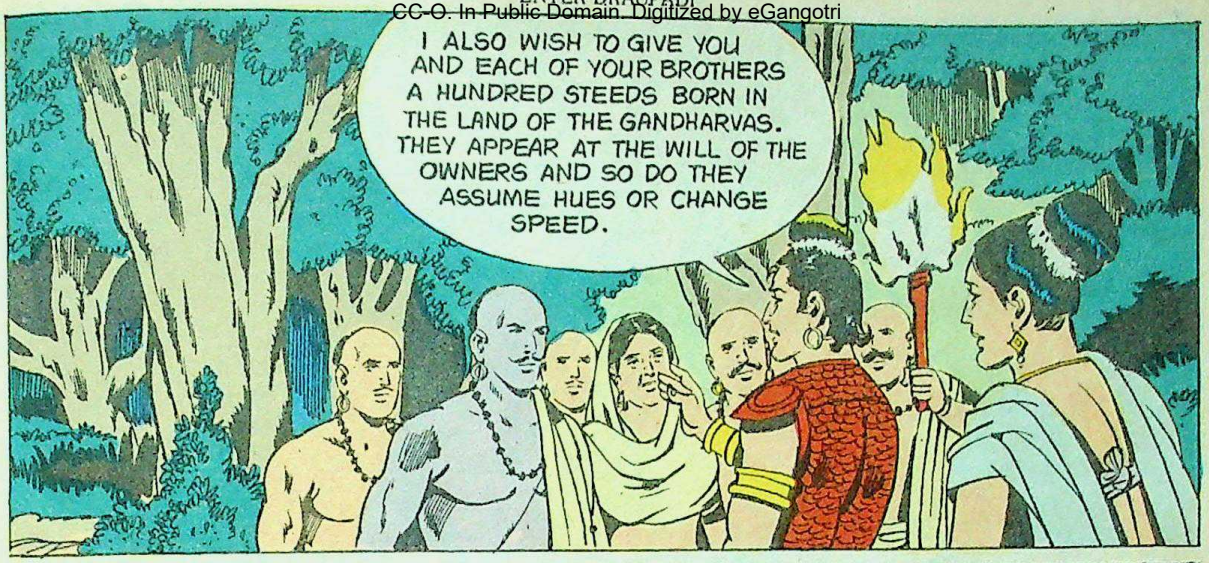

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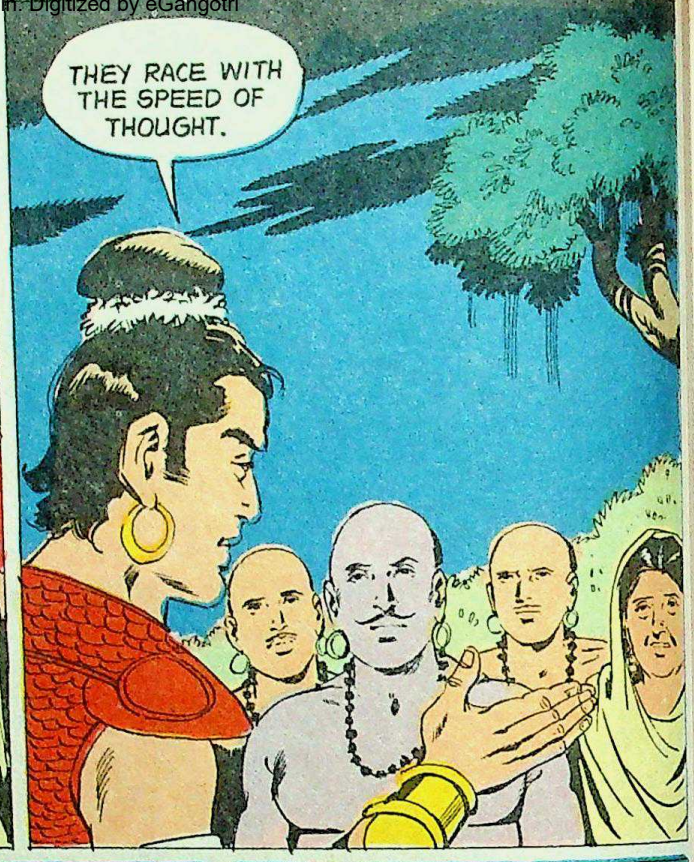

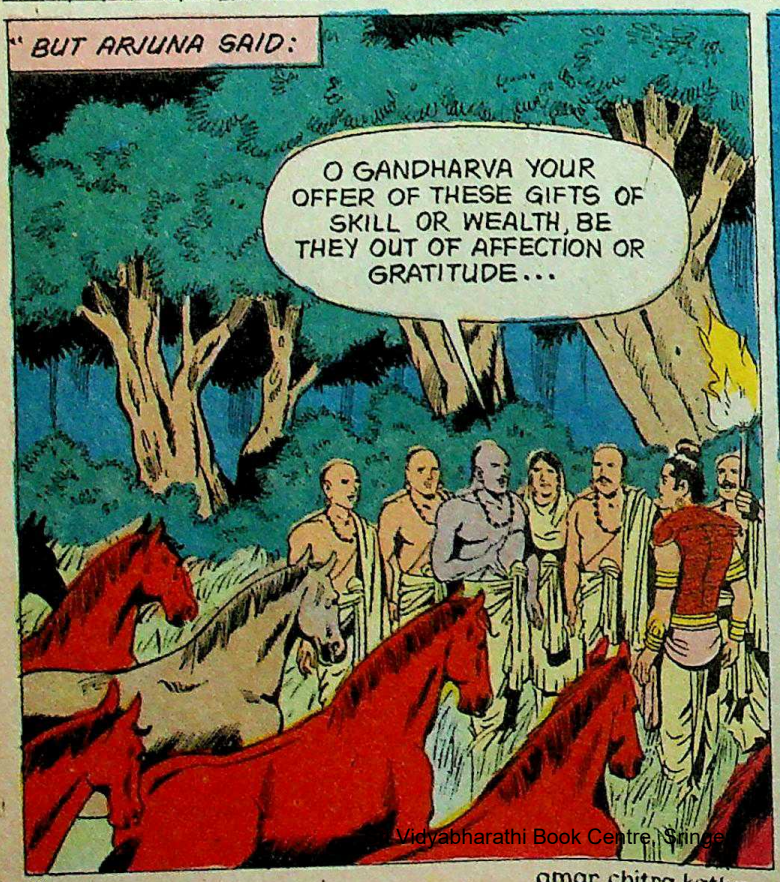

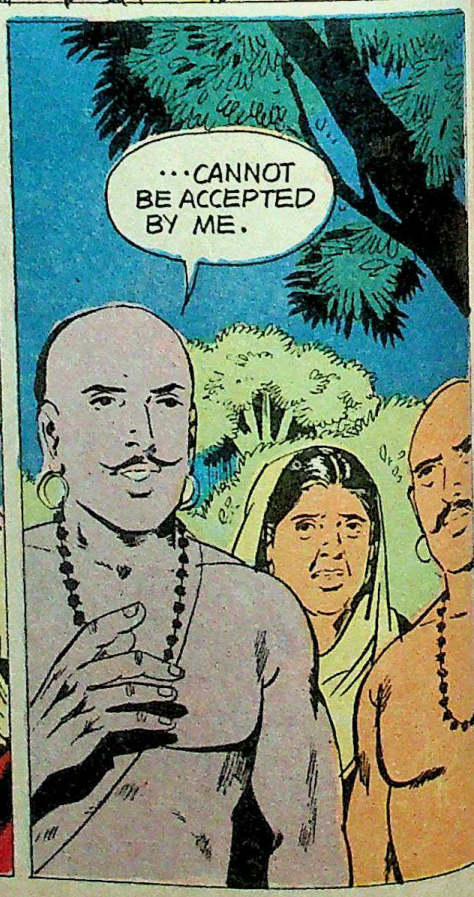

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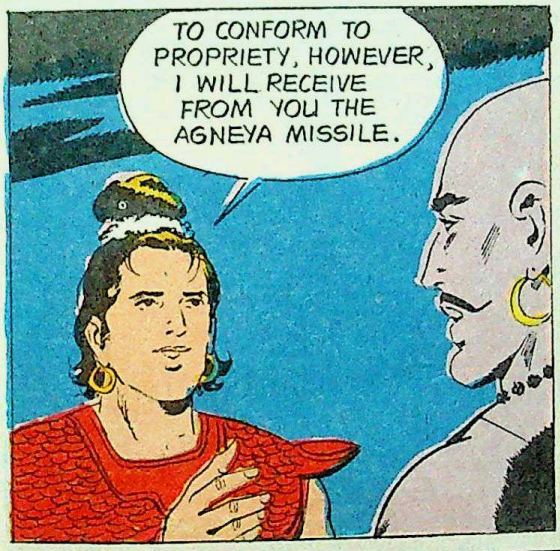

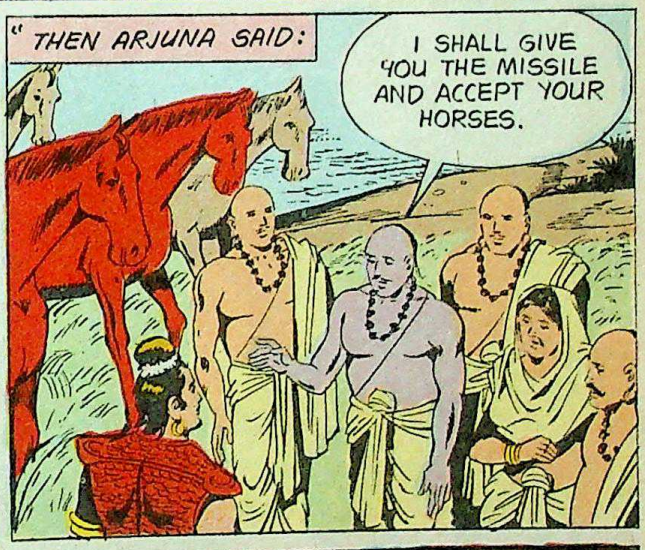

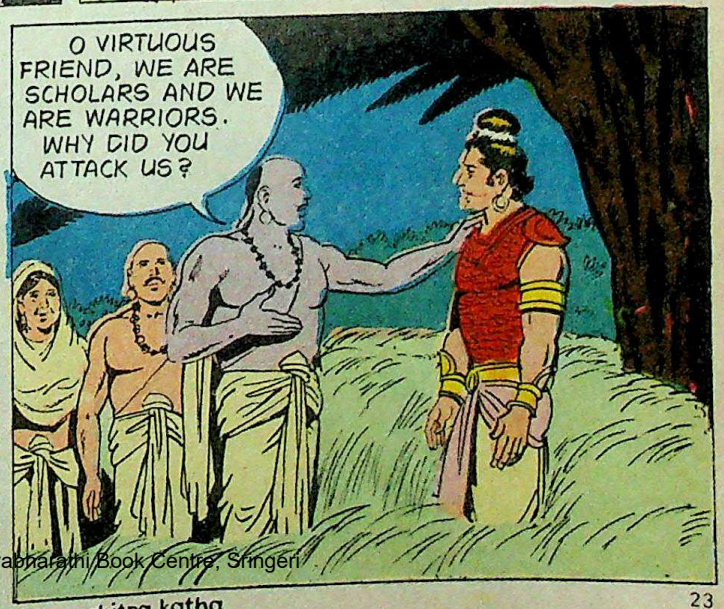

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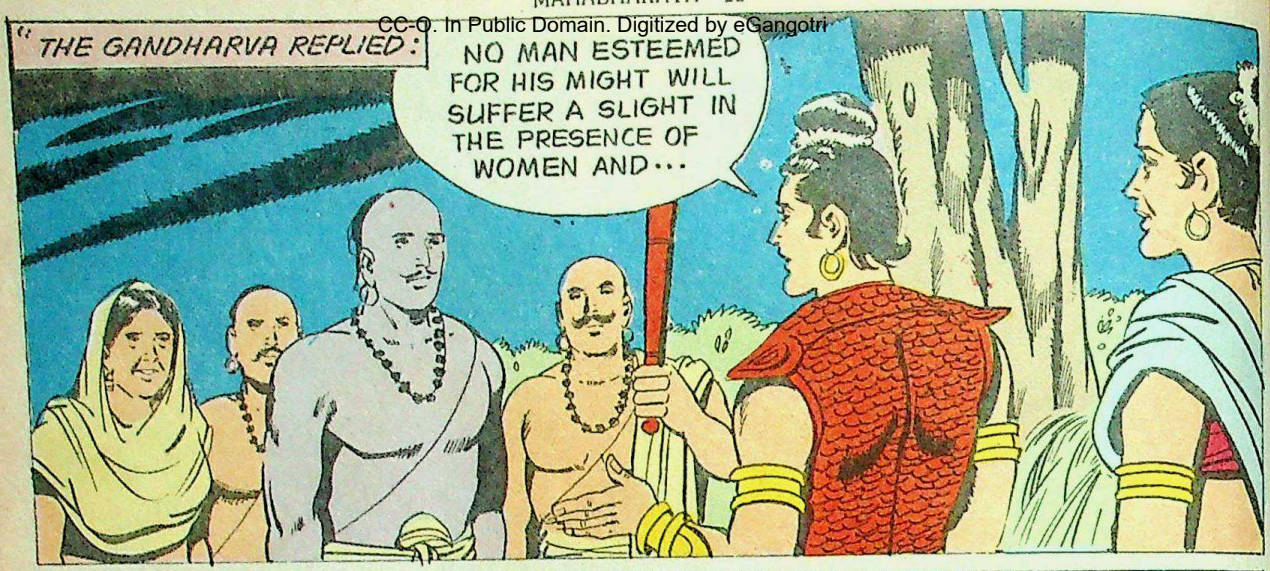

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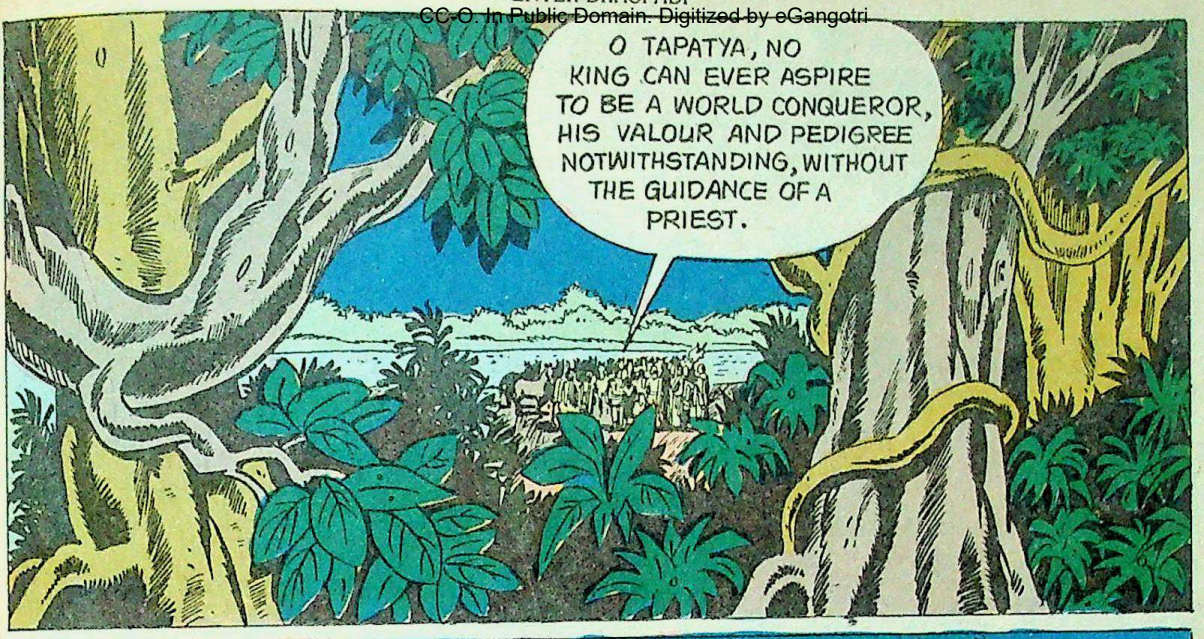

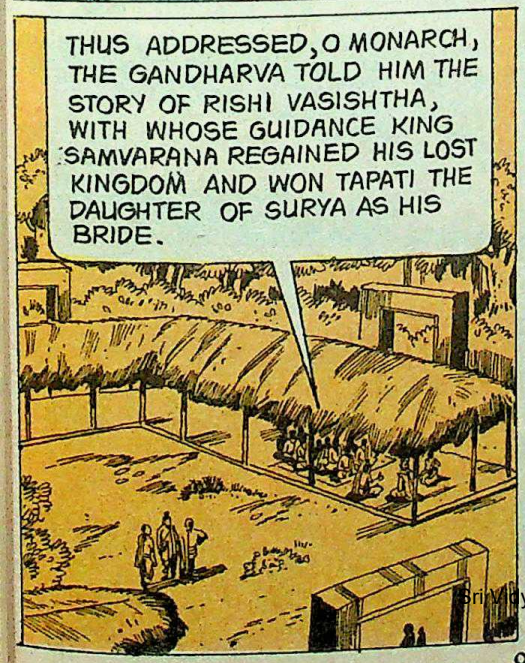

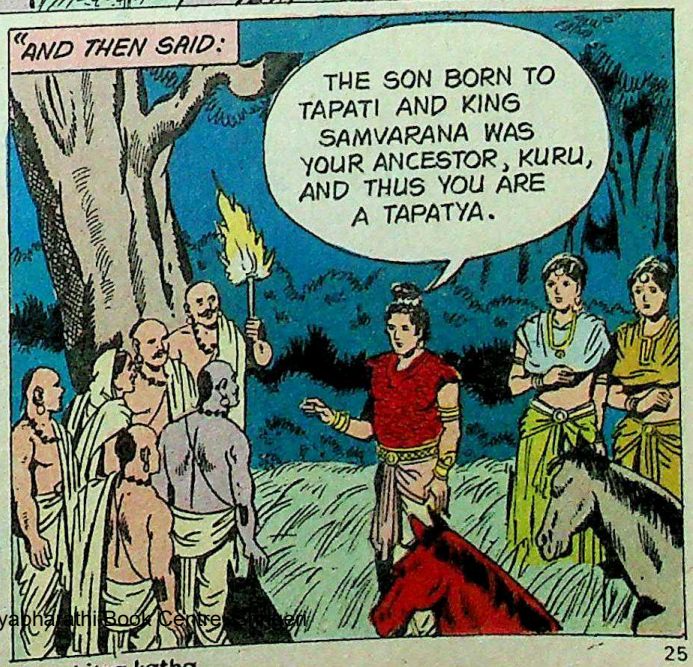

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"THEN ARJUNA ASKED:

O GANDHARVA, WITH YOUR VAST KNOWLEDGE, YOU TELL US WHICH BRAHMANA IS TO BE CHOSEN AS OUR PRIEST.

THE GANDHARVA REPLIED:

DHOUMYA WHO PRACTISES PENANCES IN THIS FOREST IS TO BE YOUR PRIEST.

THEN, PLEASED AT THE TURN OF EVENTS, ARJUNA GAVE THE SECRET OF THE AGNEYA MISSILE TO THE GANDHARVA IN ALL PROPRIETY...

"...AND SAID:

O NOBLE GANDHARVA, LET THESE HORSES BE WITH YOU. WE SHALL TAKE THEM IN THE TIME OF NEED.

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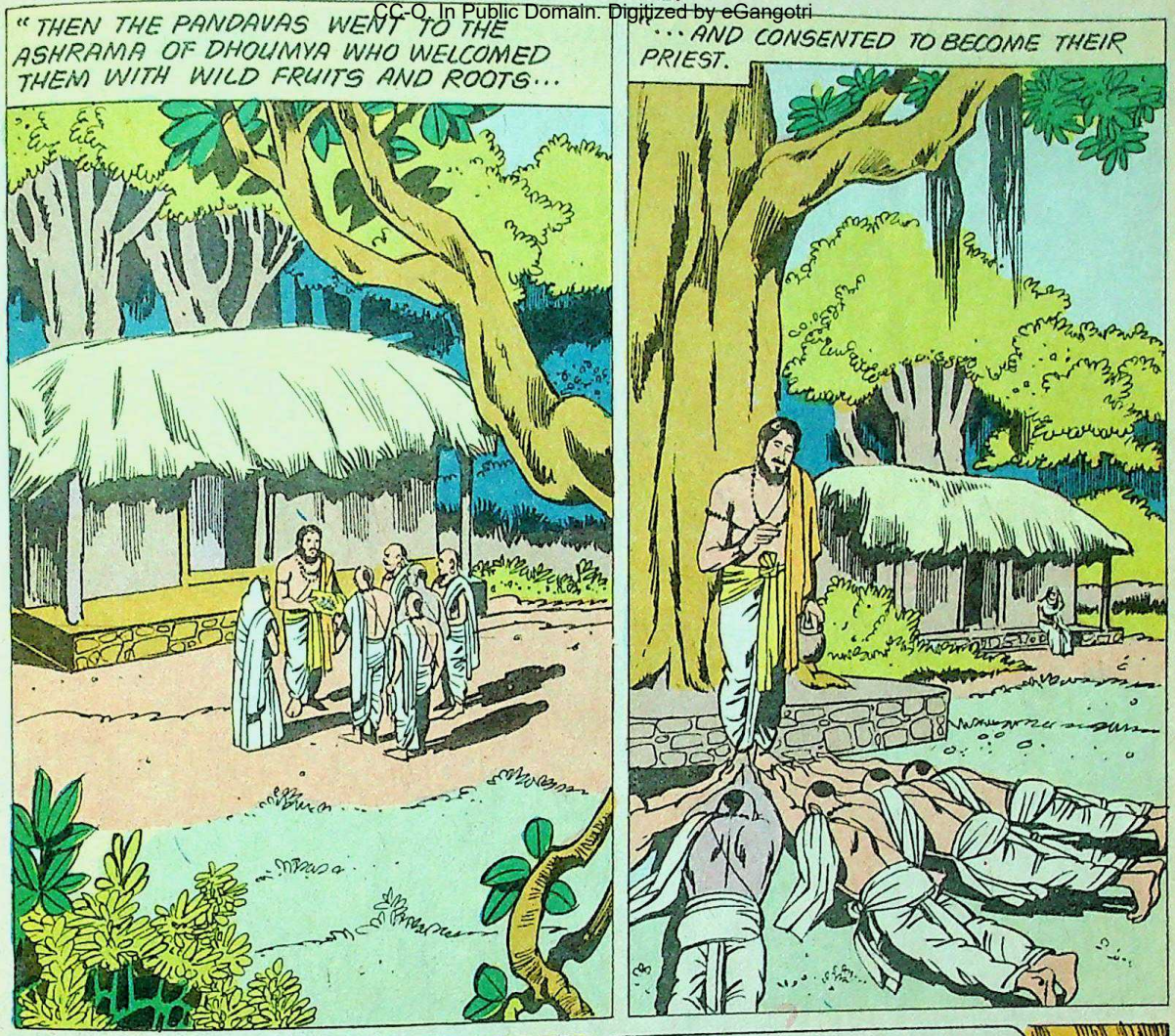

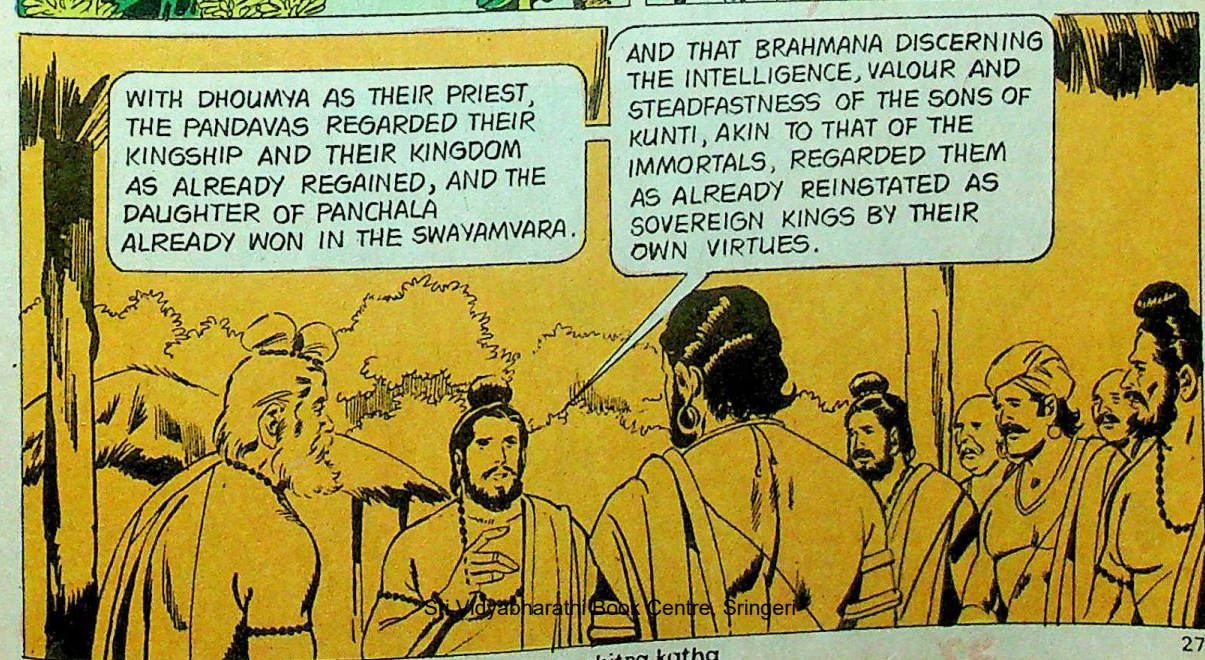

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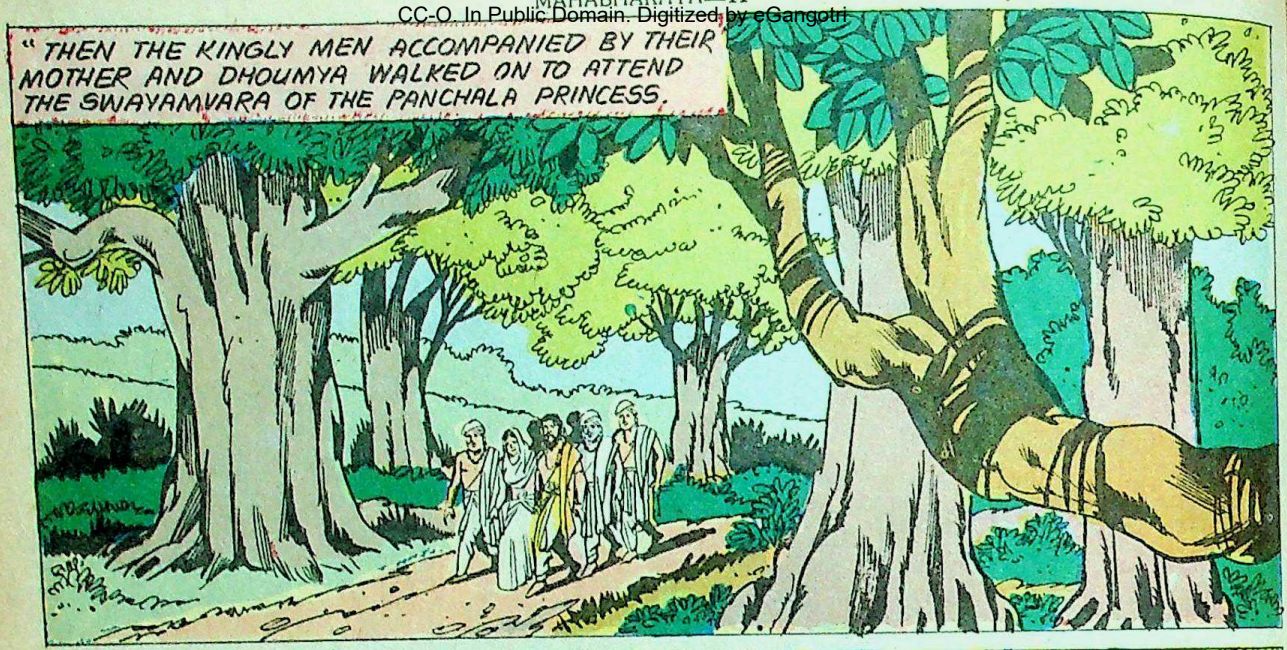

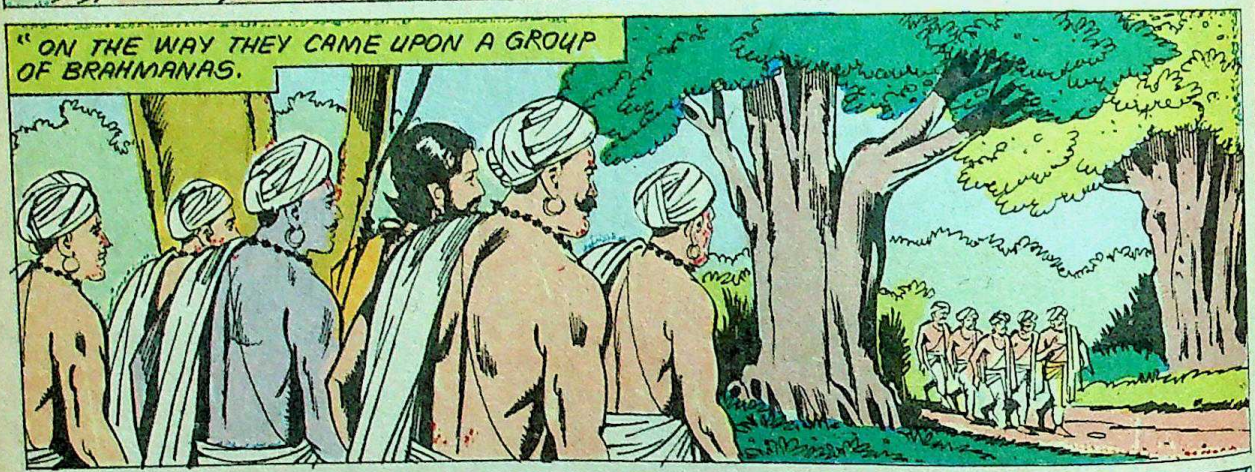

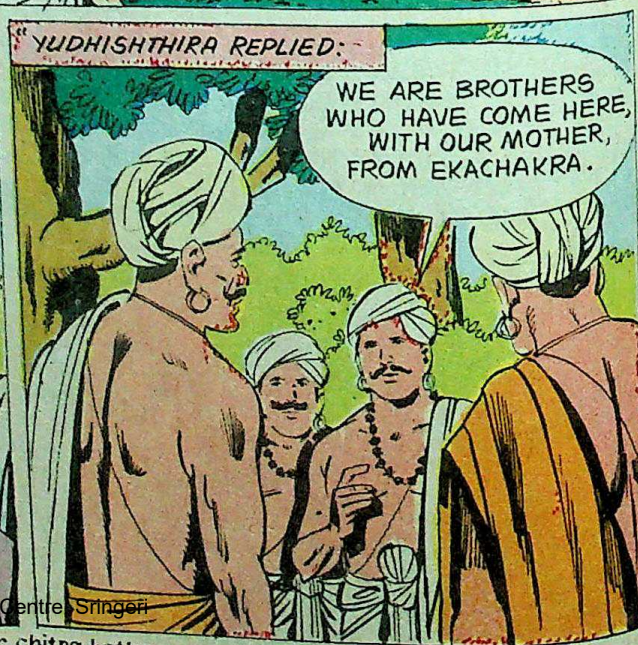

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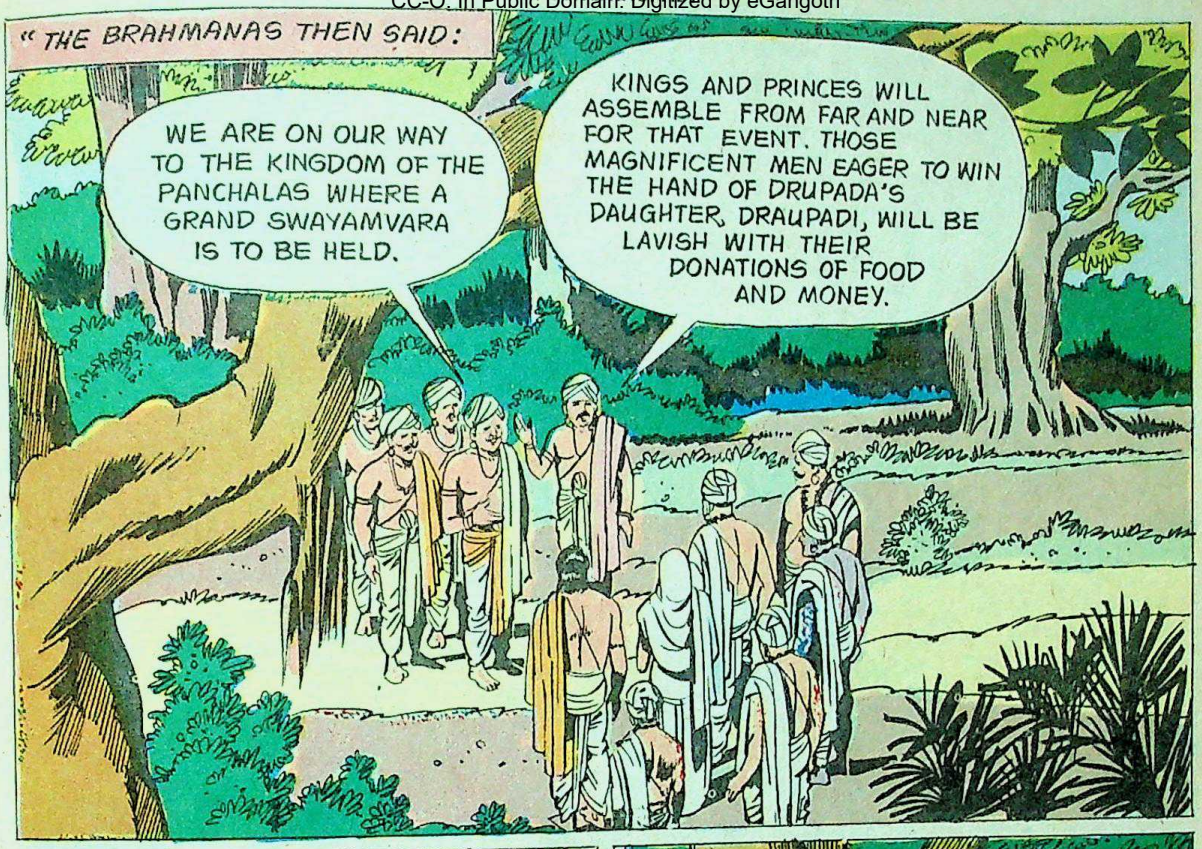

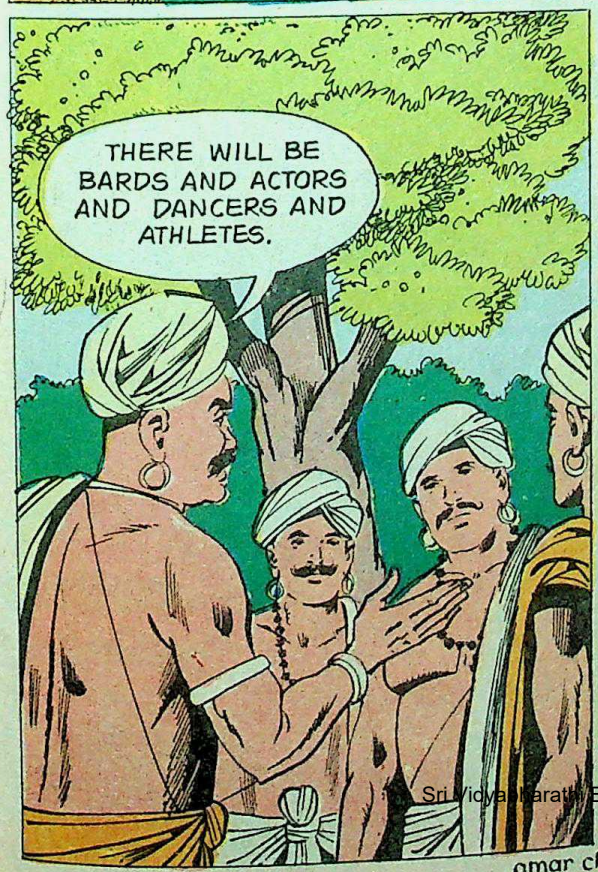

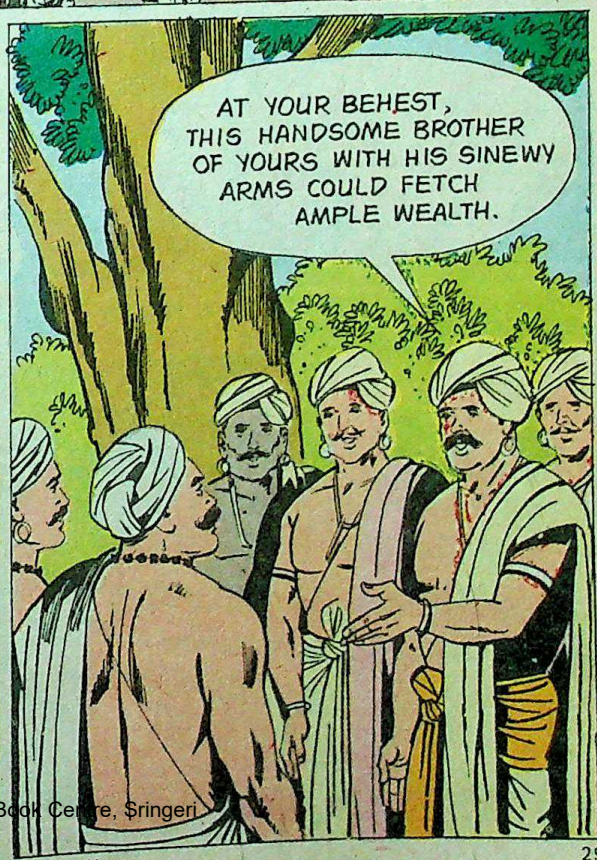

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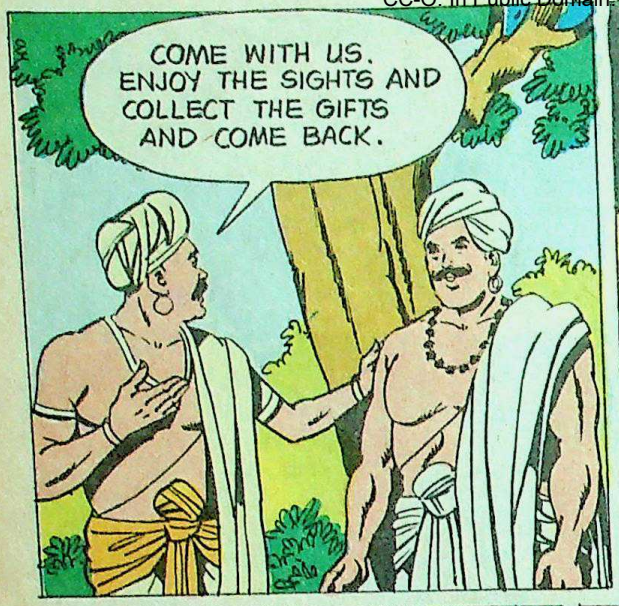

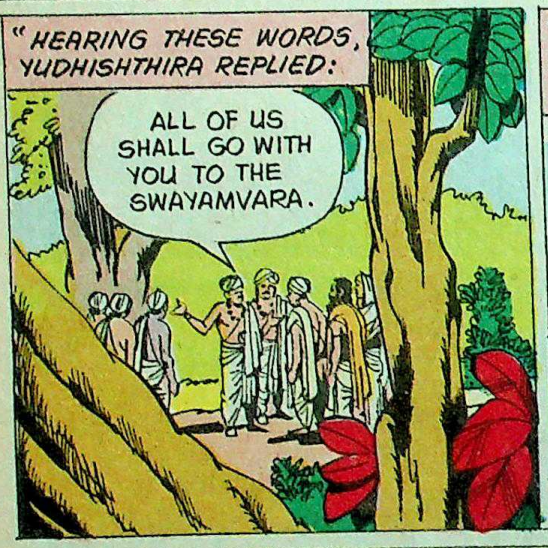

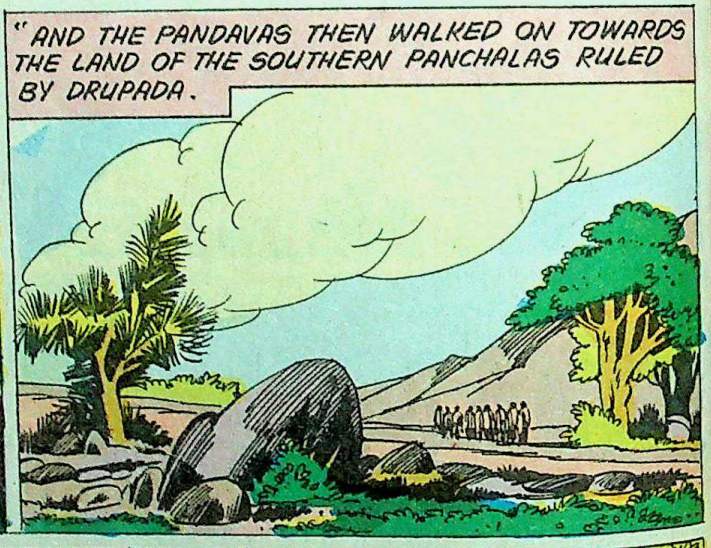

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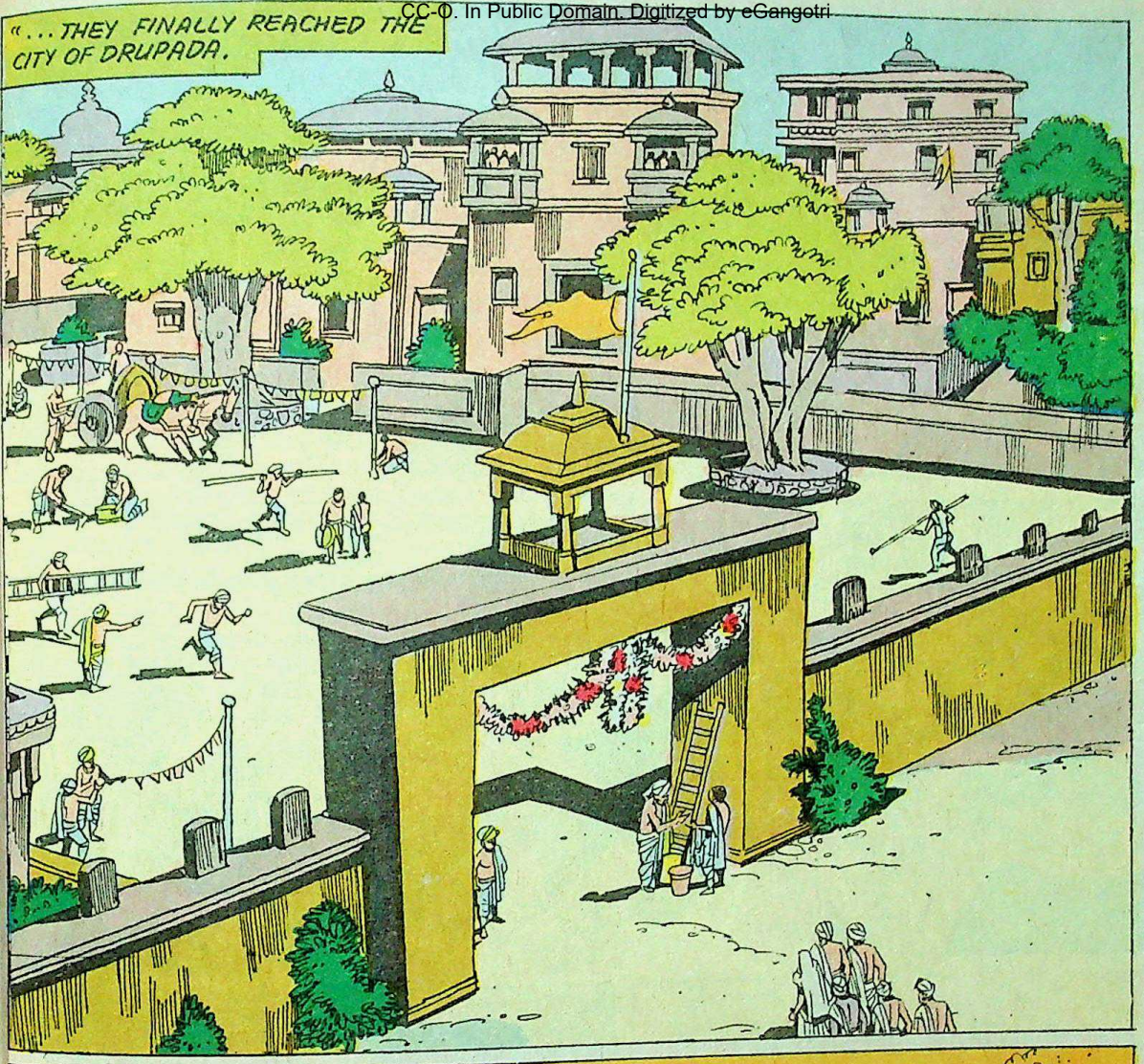

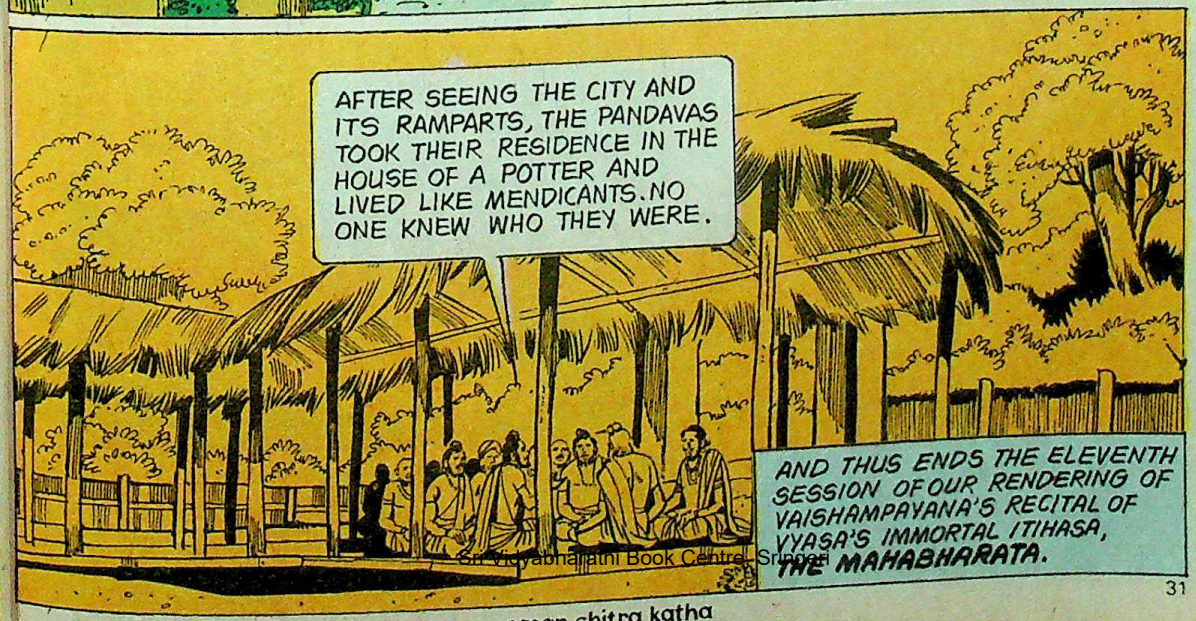

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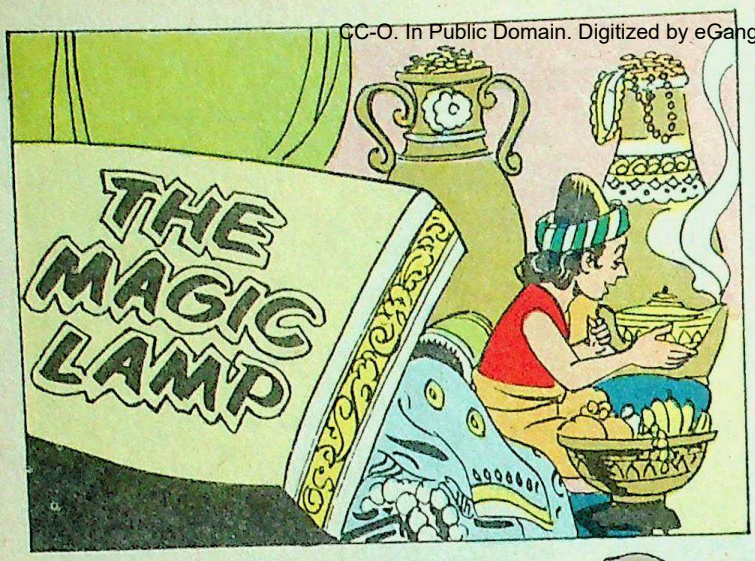

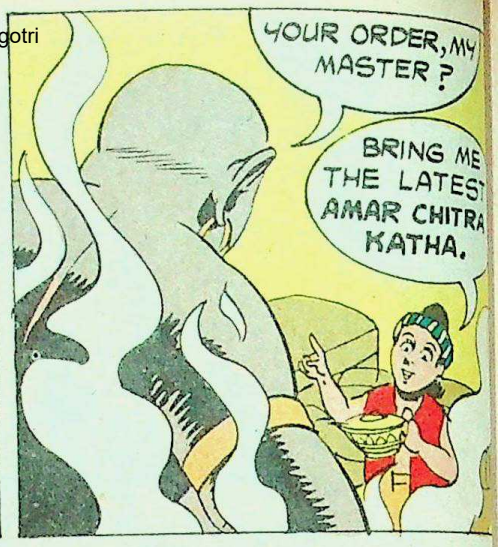

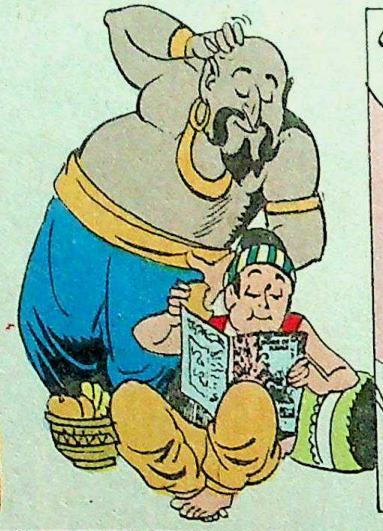

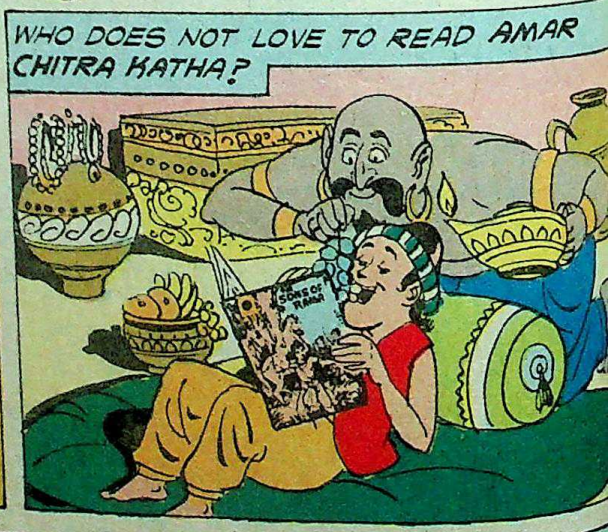

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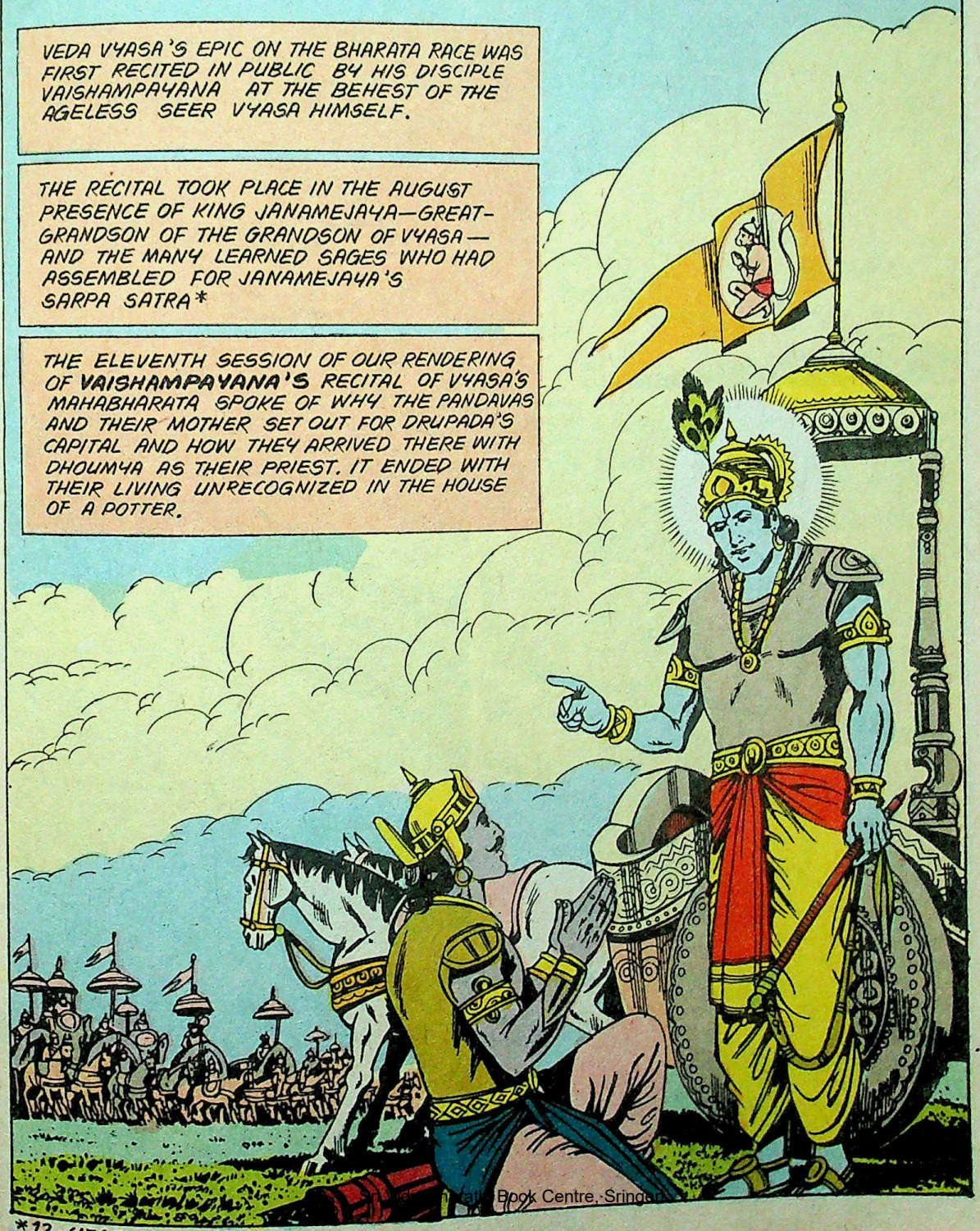
Mahabharata–12

Draupadi's Swayamvara

VEDA VYASA'S EPIC ON THE BHARATA RACE WAS FIRST RECITED IN PUBLIC BY HIS DISCIPLE VAISHAMPAYANA AT THE BEHEST OF THE AGELESS SEER VYASA HIMSELF.

THE RECITAL TOOK PLACE IN THE AUGUST PRESENCE OF KING JANAMEJAYA—GREAT-GRANDSON OF THE GRANDSON OF VYASA—AND THE MANY LEARNED SAGES WHO HAD ASSEMBLED FOR JANAMEJAYA'S SARPA SATRA*

THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF OUR RENDERING OF **VAISHAMPAYANA'S** RECITAL OF VYASA'S MAHABHARATA SPOKE OF WHY THE PANDAVAS AND THEIR MOTHER SET OUT FOR DRUPADA'S CAPITAL AND HOW THEY ARRIVED THERE WITH DHOUMYA AS THEIR PRIEST. IT ENDED WITH THEIR LIVING UNRECOGNIZED IN THE HOUSE OF A POTTER.



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*12-YEAR-LONG SNAKE SACRIFICE

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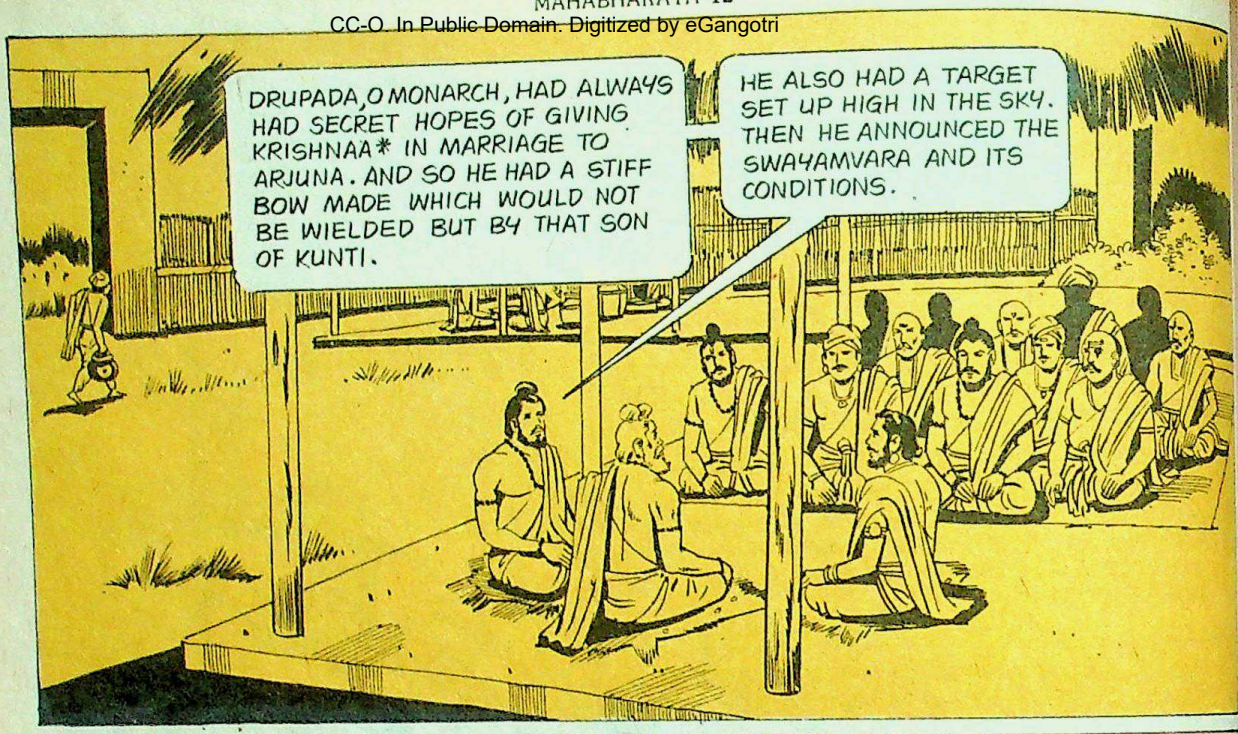

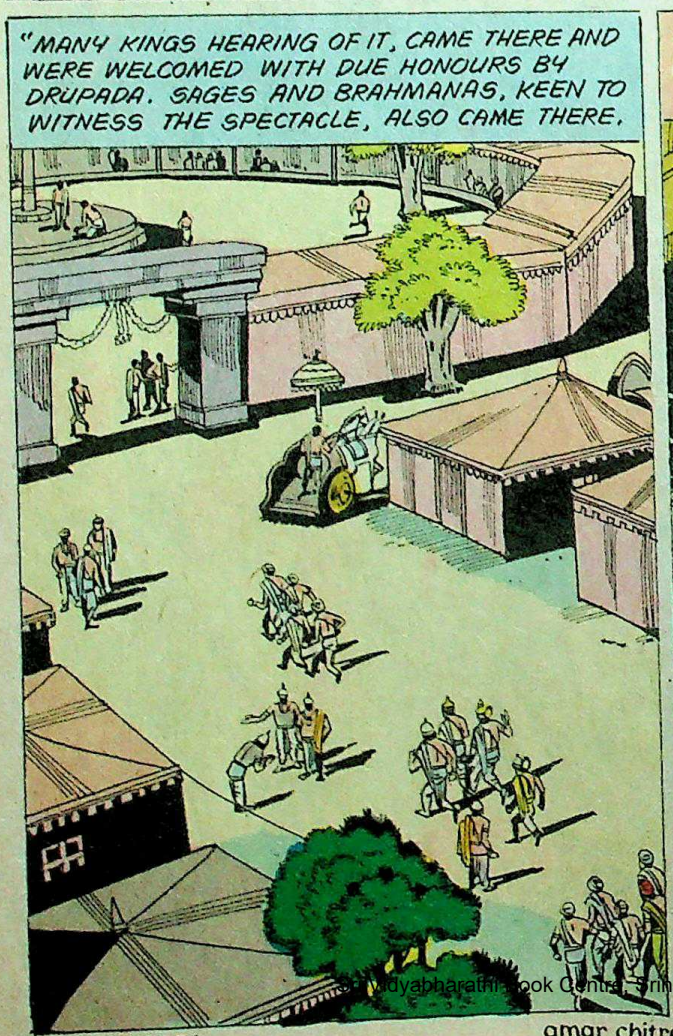

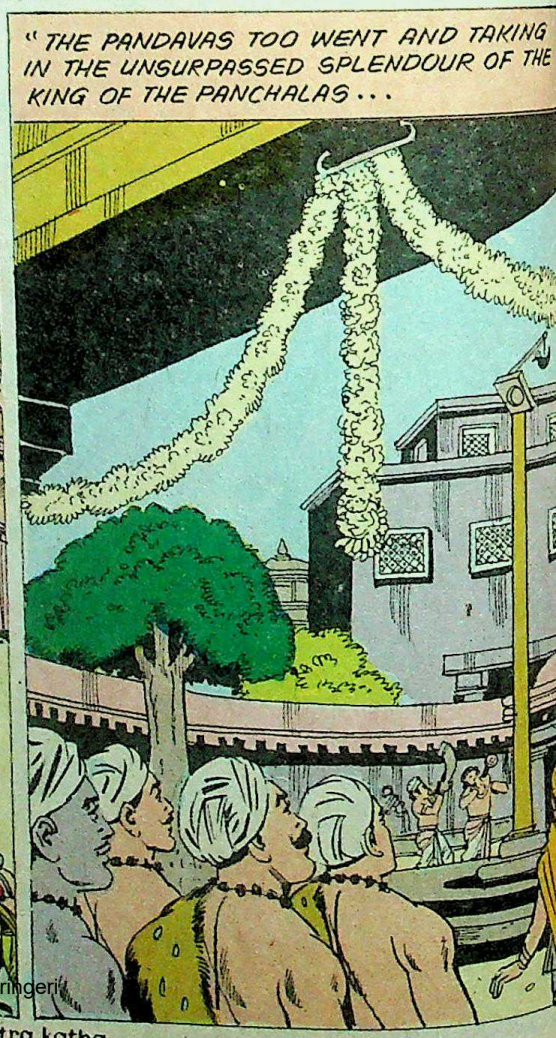

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* DRAUPADI

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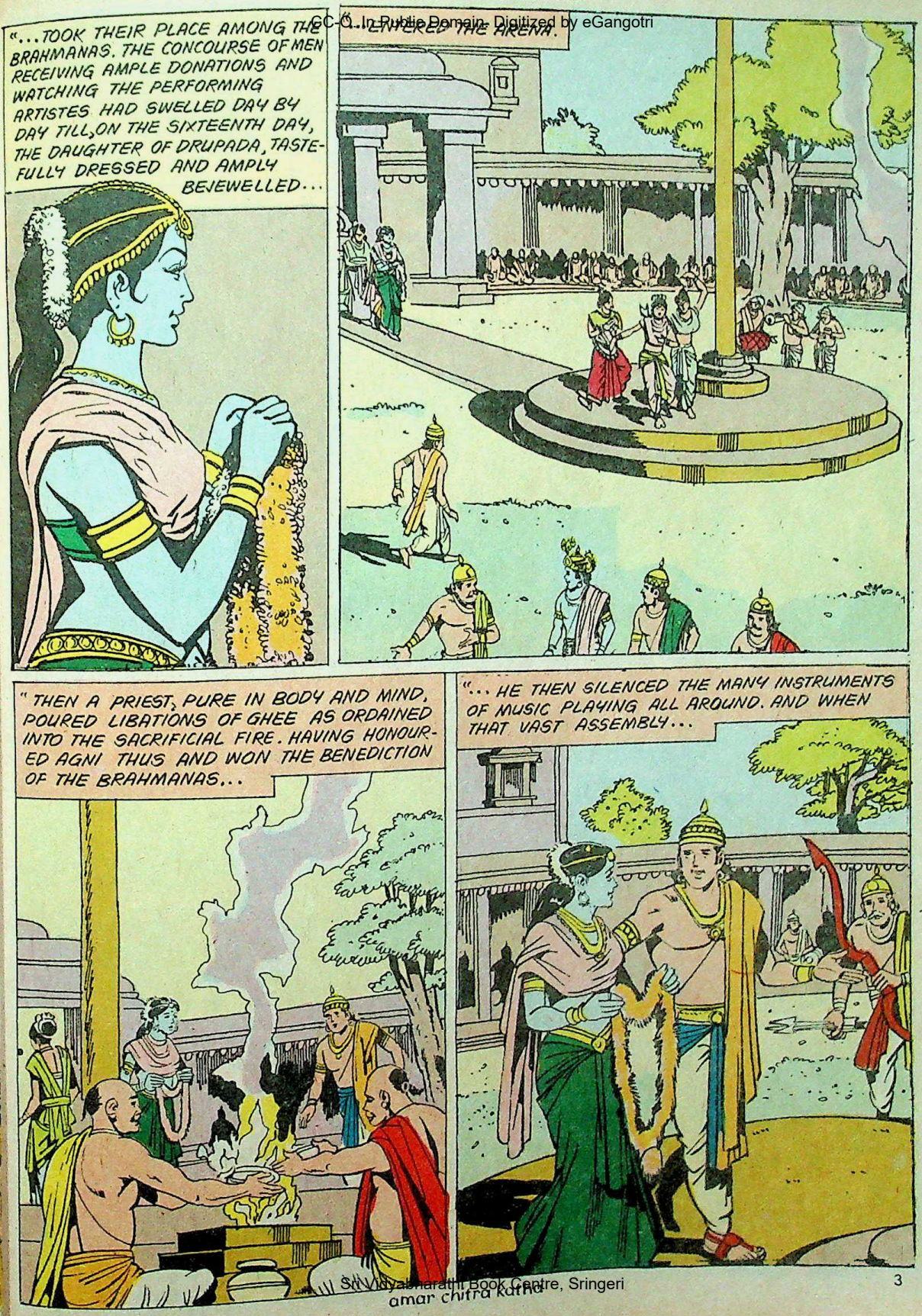

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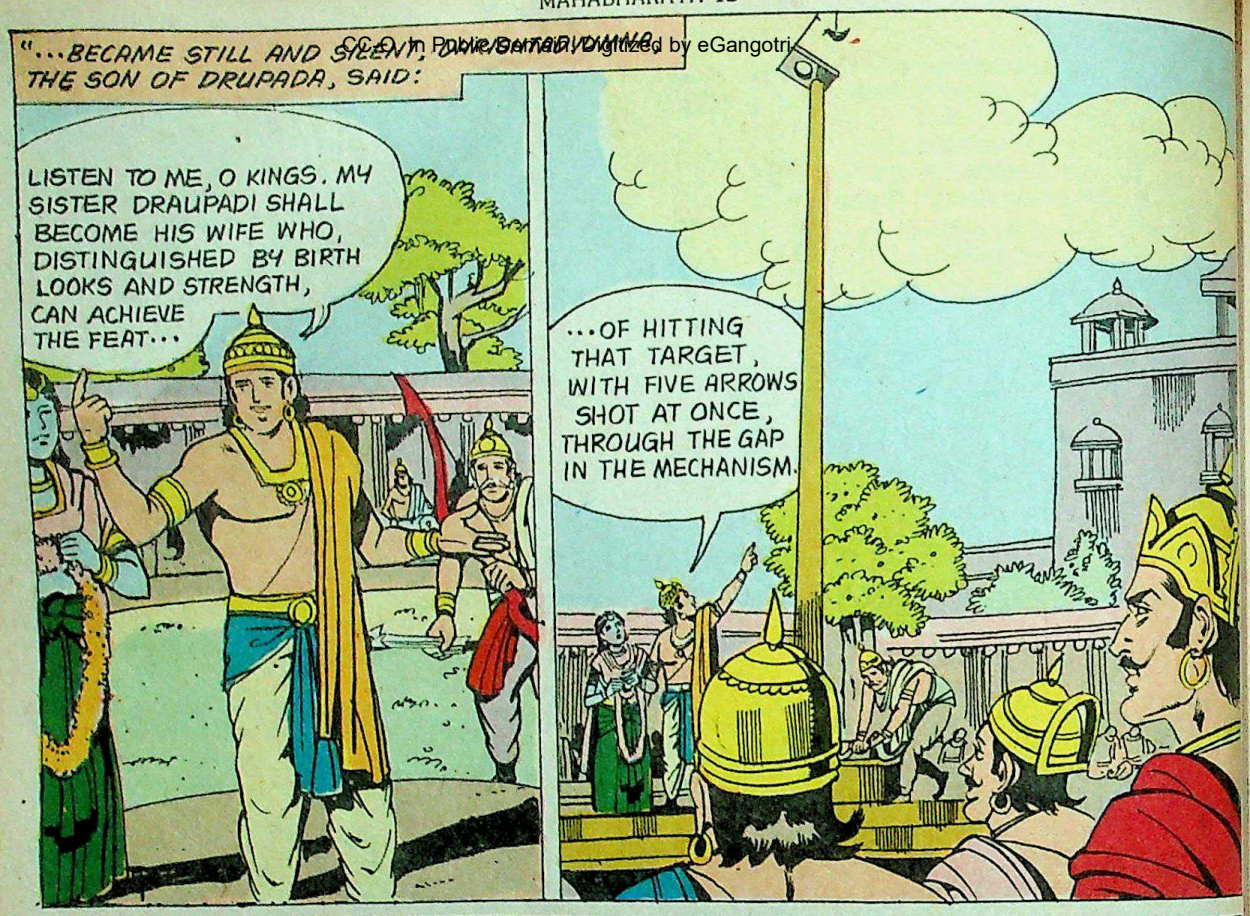

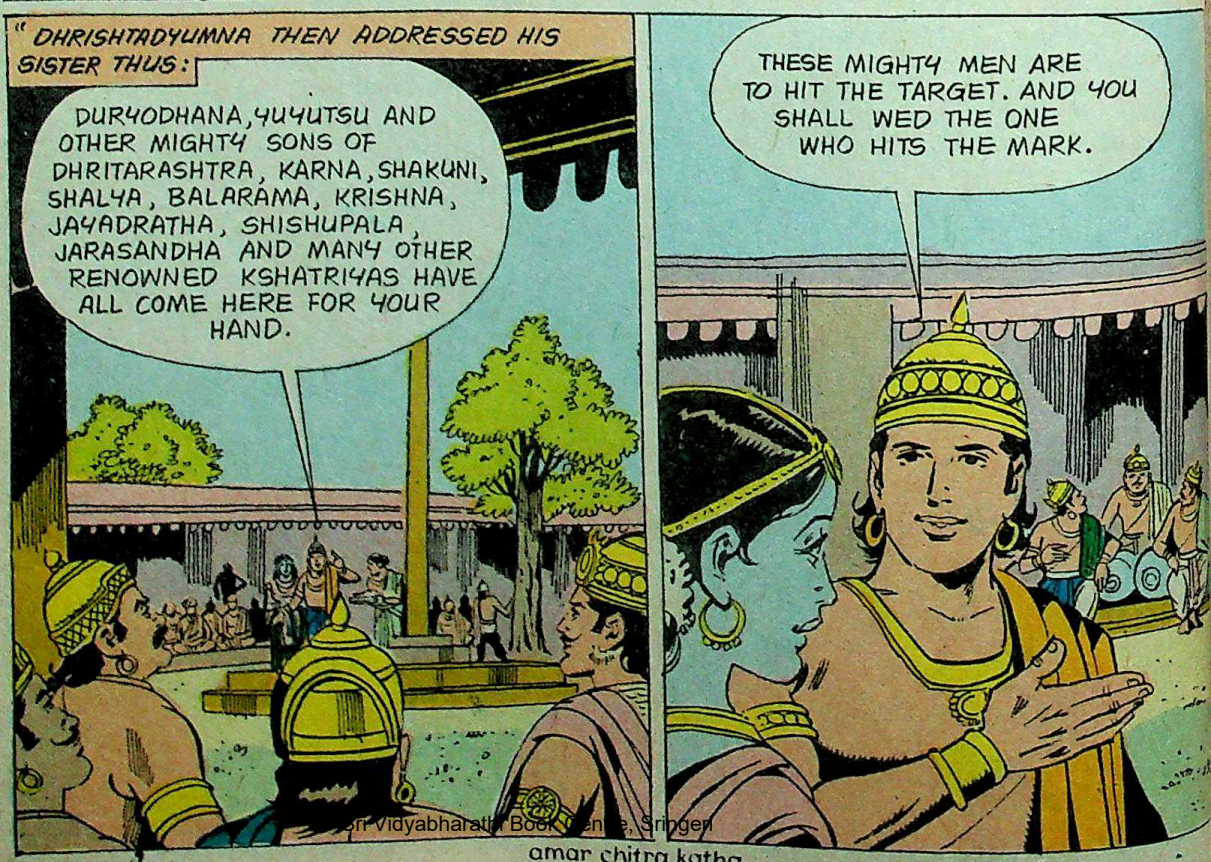

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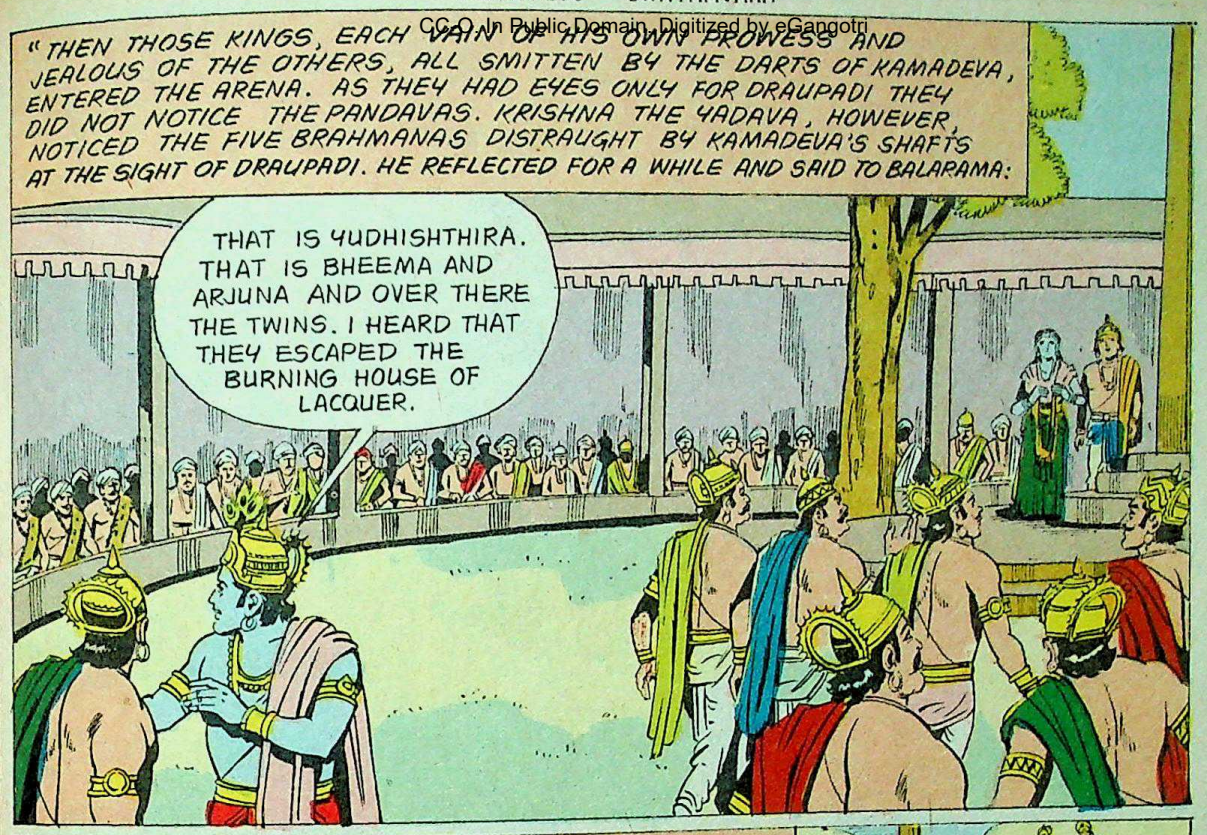

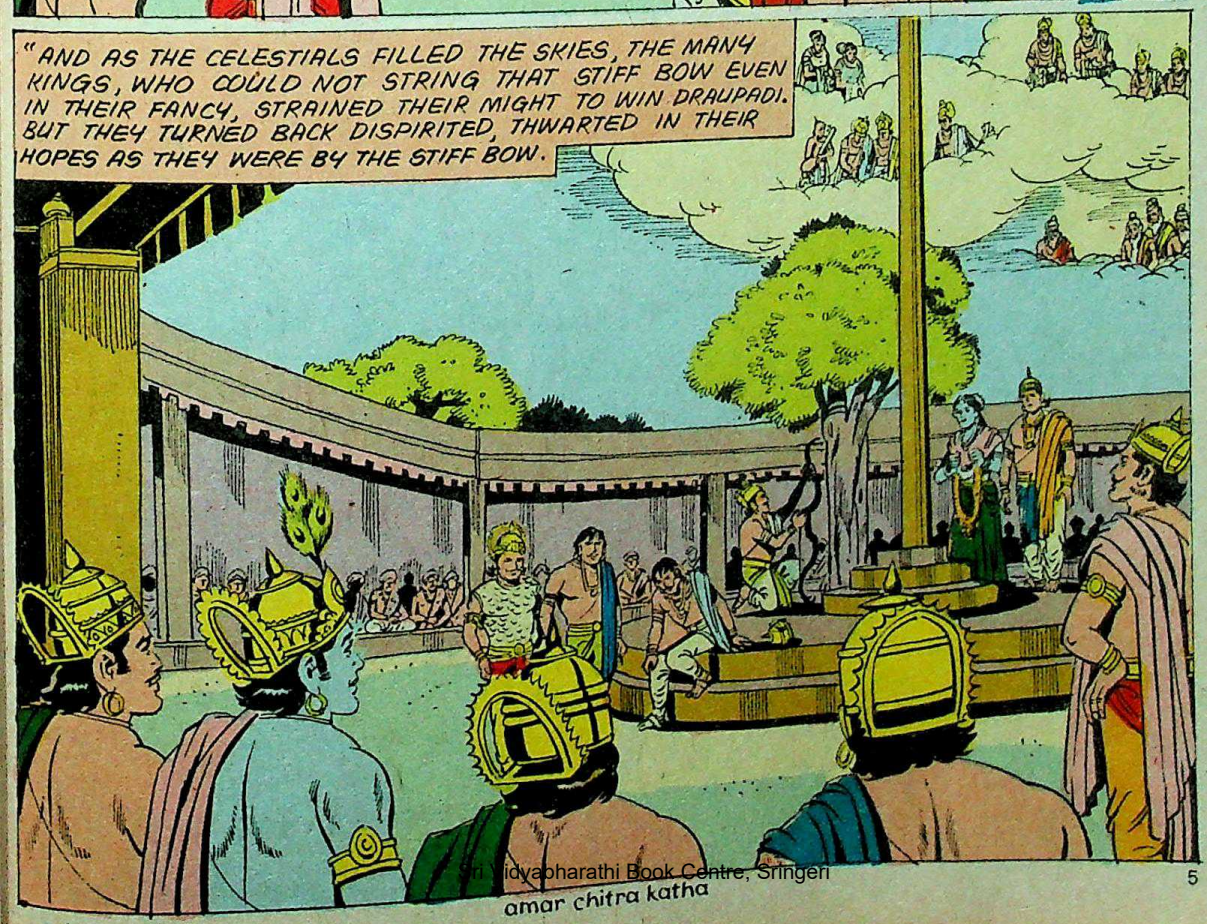

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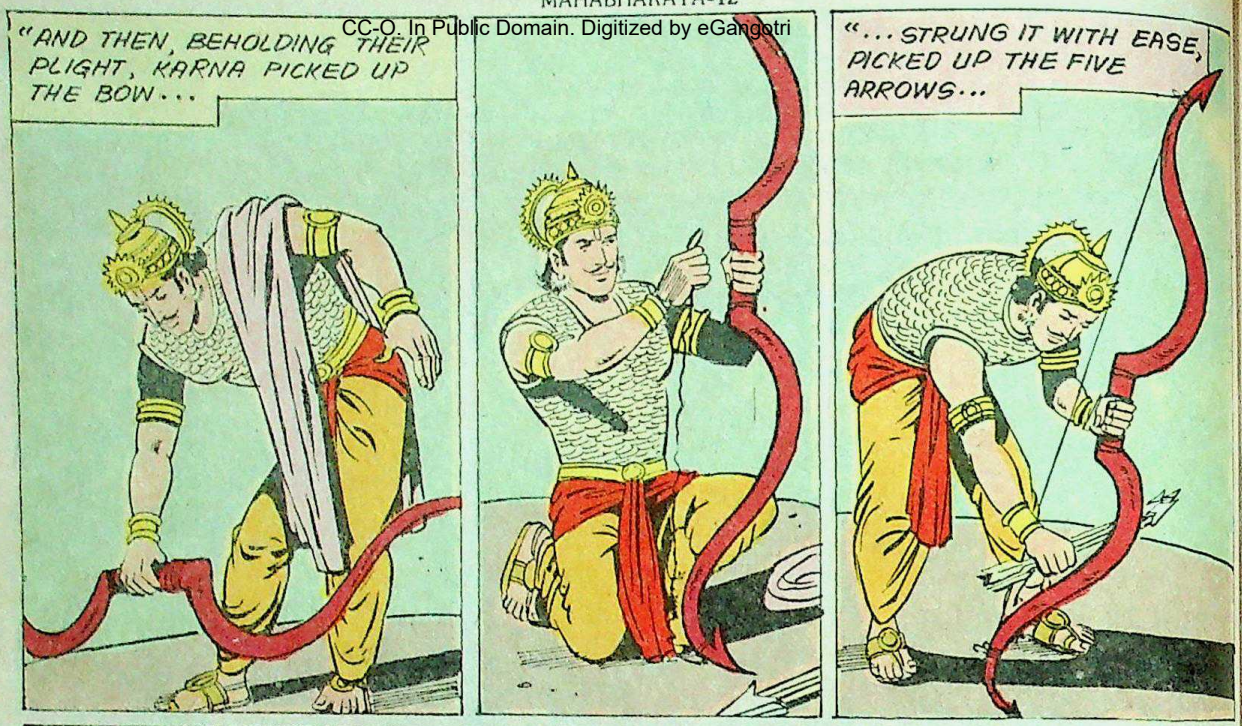

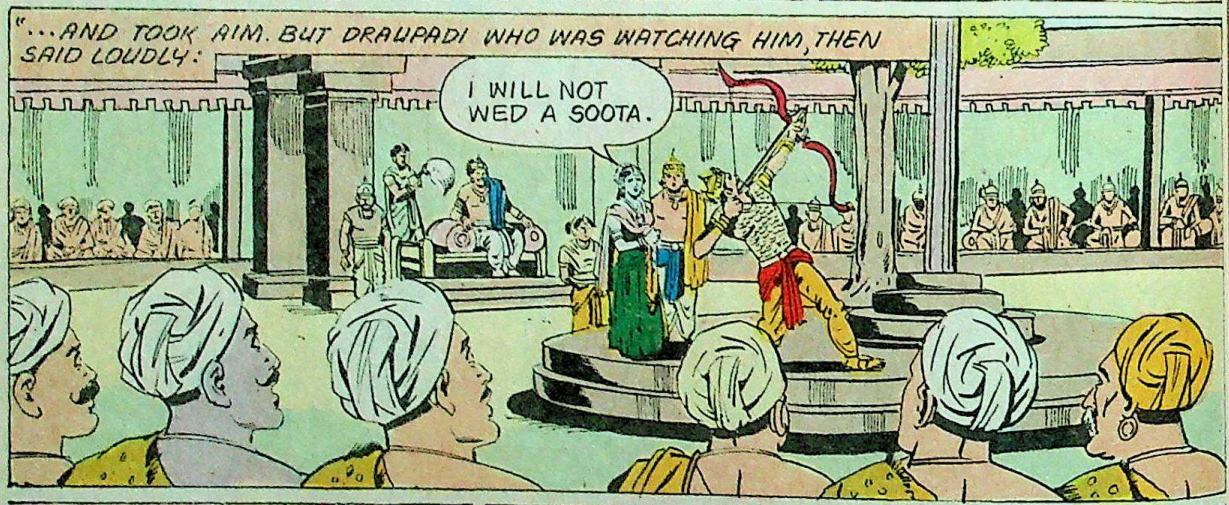

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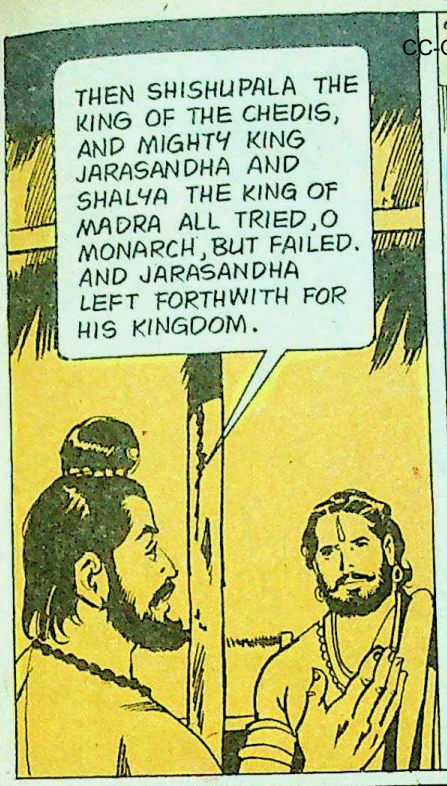

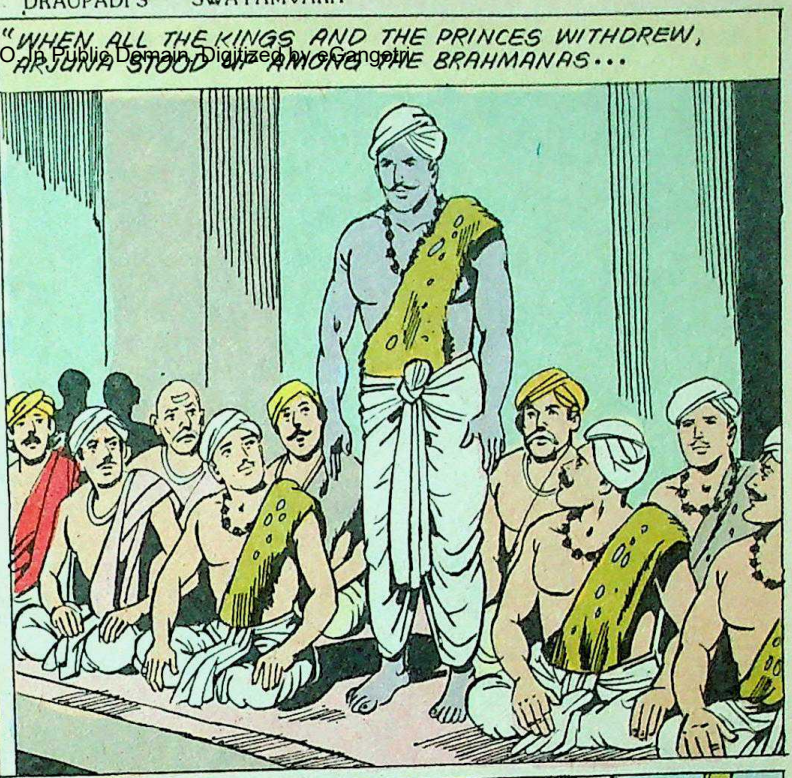

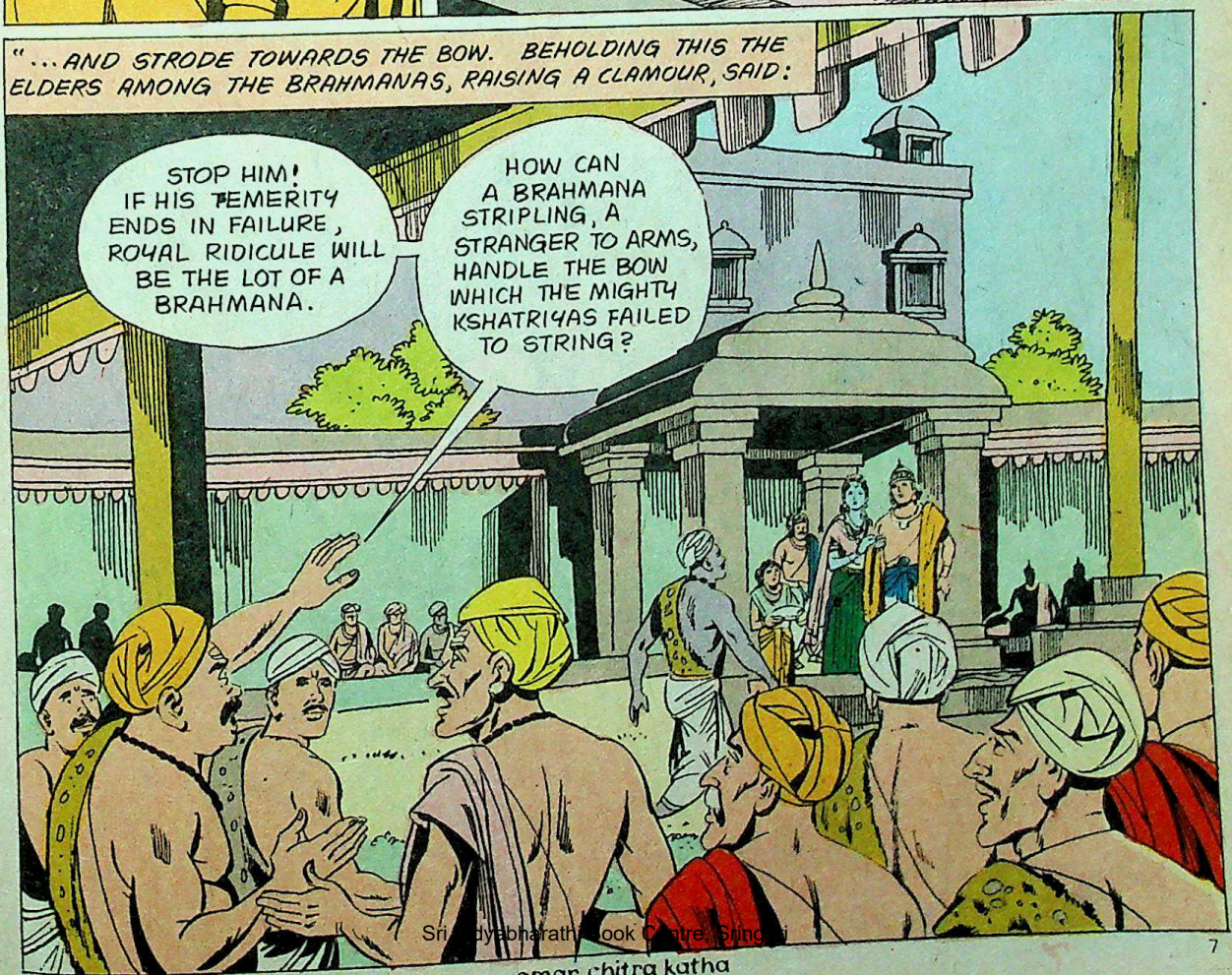

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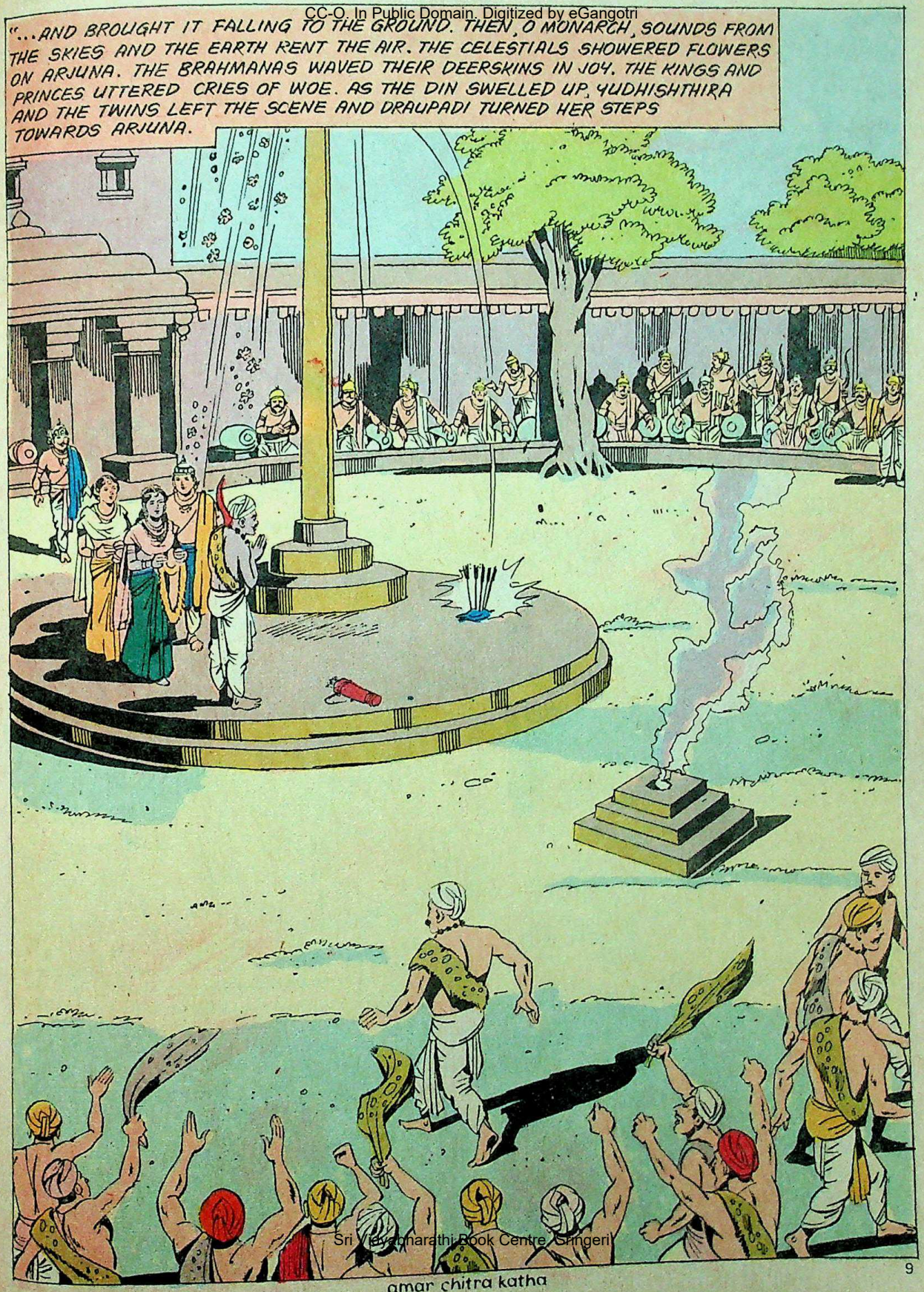

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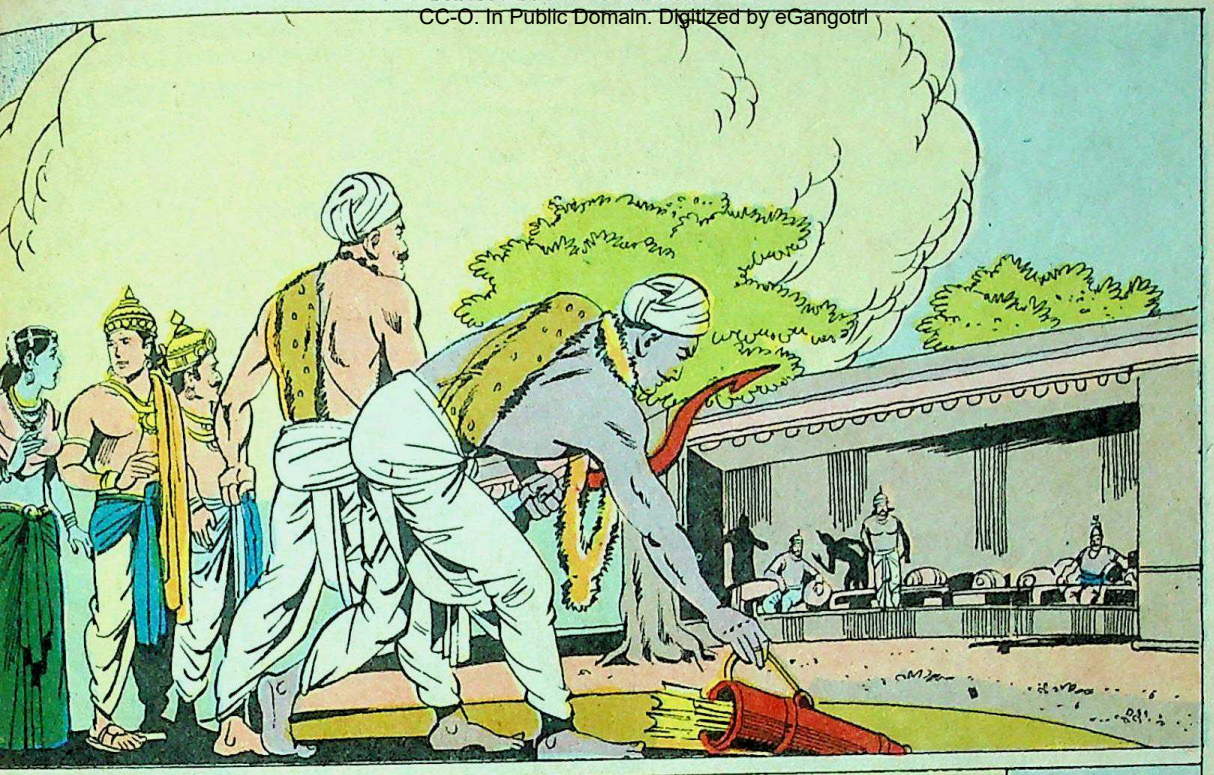

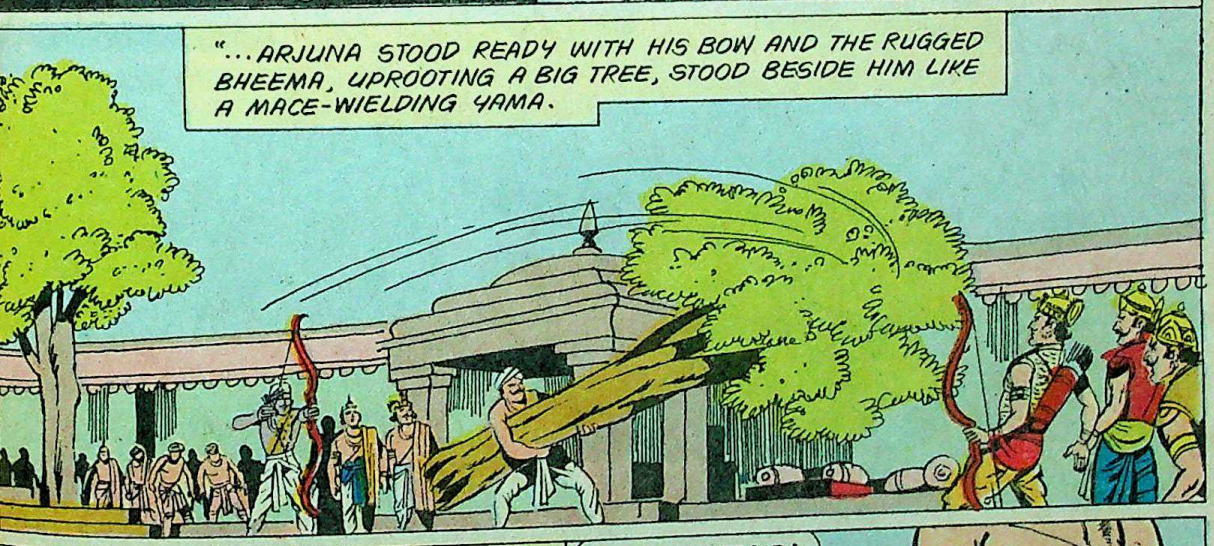

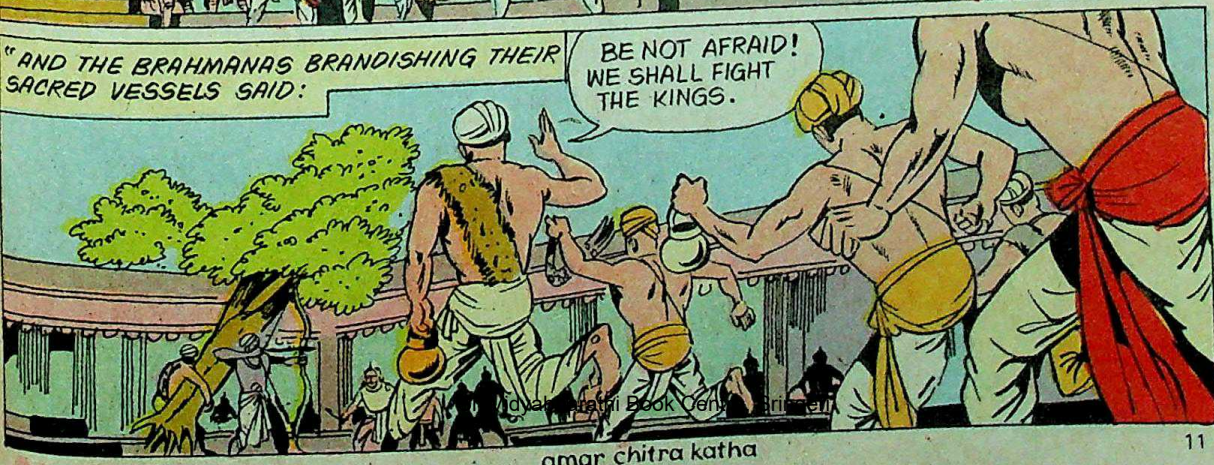

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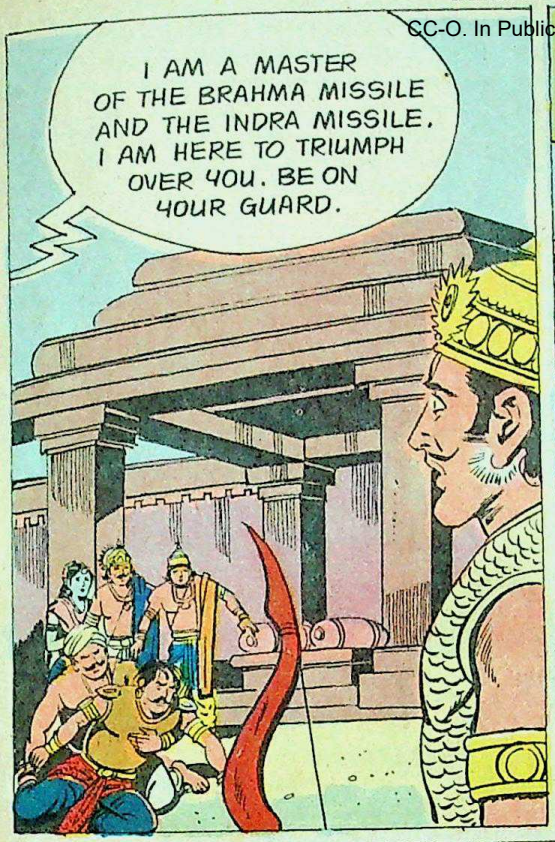

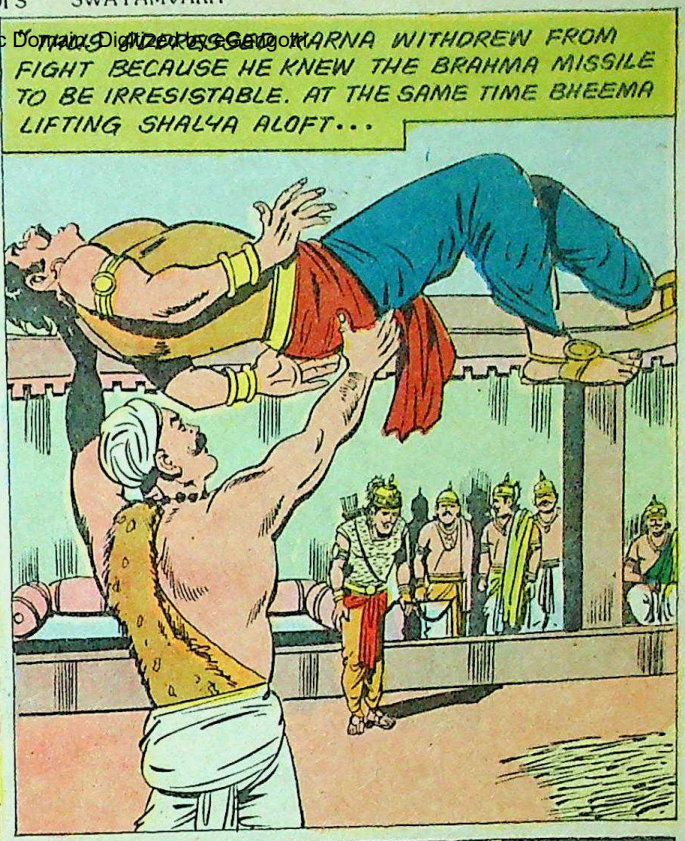

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"BHEEMA AND ARJUNA PUSHED THEIR WAY THROUGH THE CROWDING BRAHMANAS AND THOSE WHO HAD COME THERE WENT AWAY SAYING:

THE PANCHALA PRINCESS IS WON BY A BRAHMANA! THE SWAYAMVARA HAS MARKED THE TRIUMPH OF THE BRAHMANAS!

"AND THOSE BATTLE-SCARRED HEROES AT LAST EMERGED, FOLLOWED BY DRAUPADI, LIKE THE MOON AND THE SUN FROM AMONG THE CLOUDS.

"AS THEY WENDED THEIR WAY TO THE POTTER'S HOUSE IN THE LATE AFTERNOON, DHRISHTADYUMNA FOLLOWED THEM UNOBSERVED.

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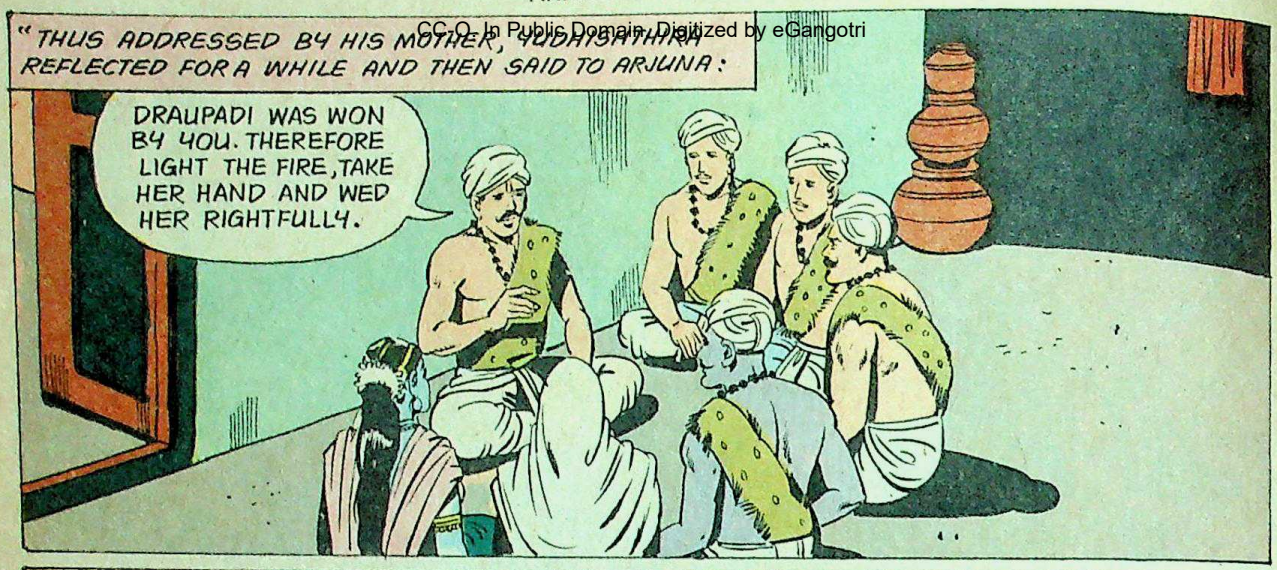

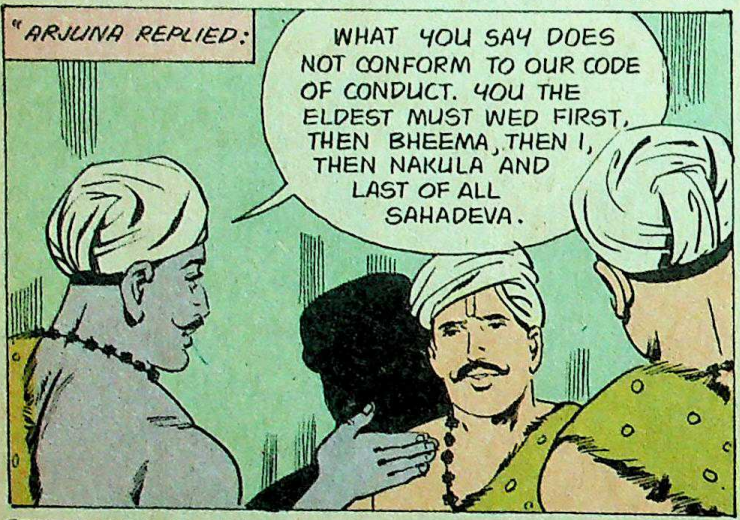

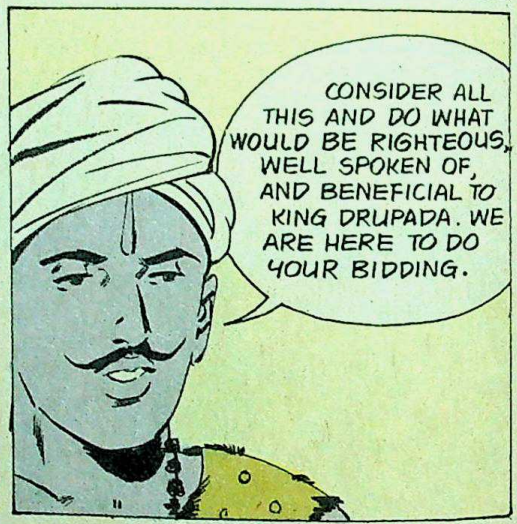

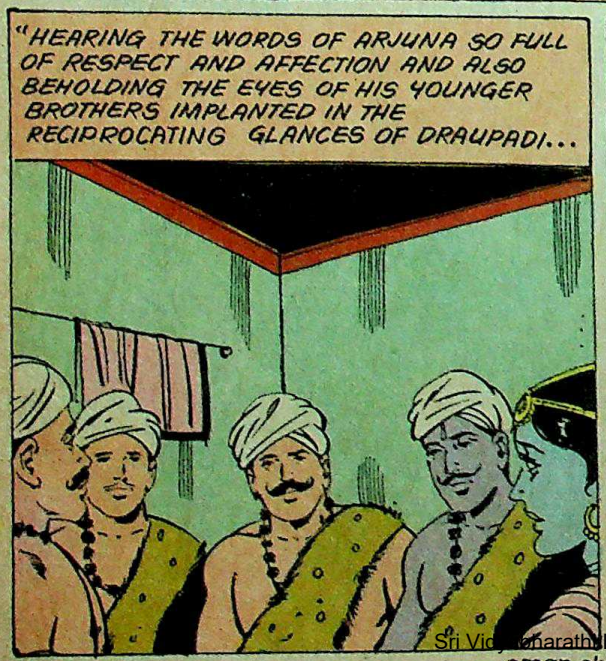

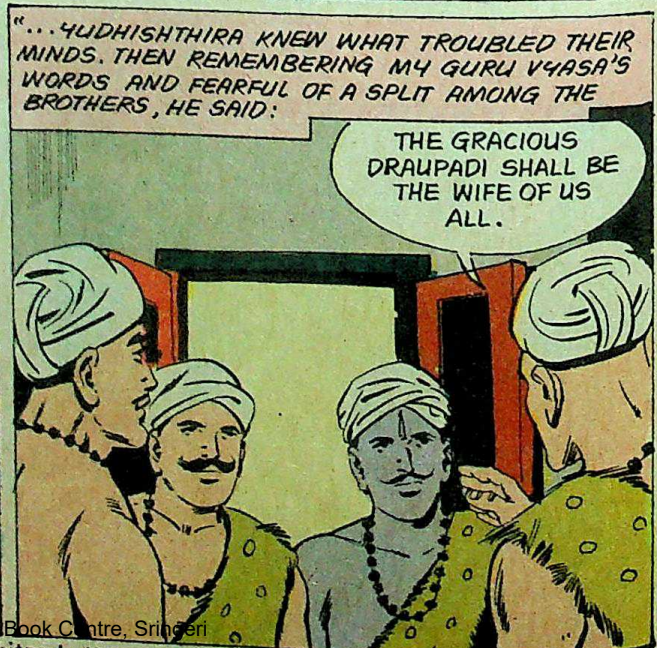

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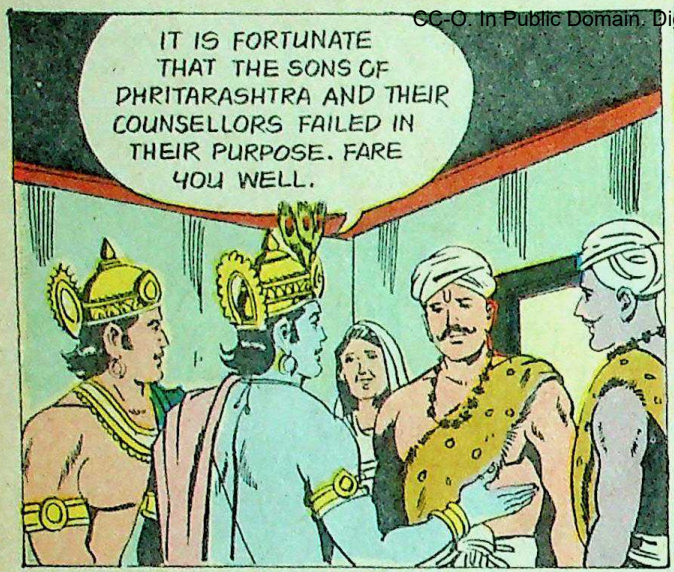

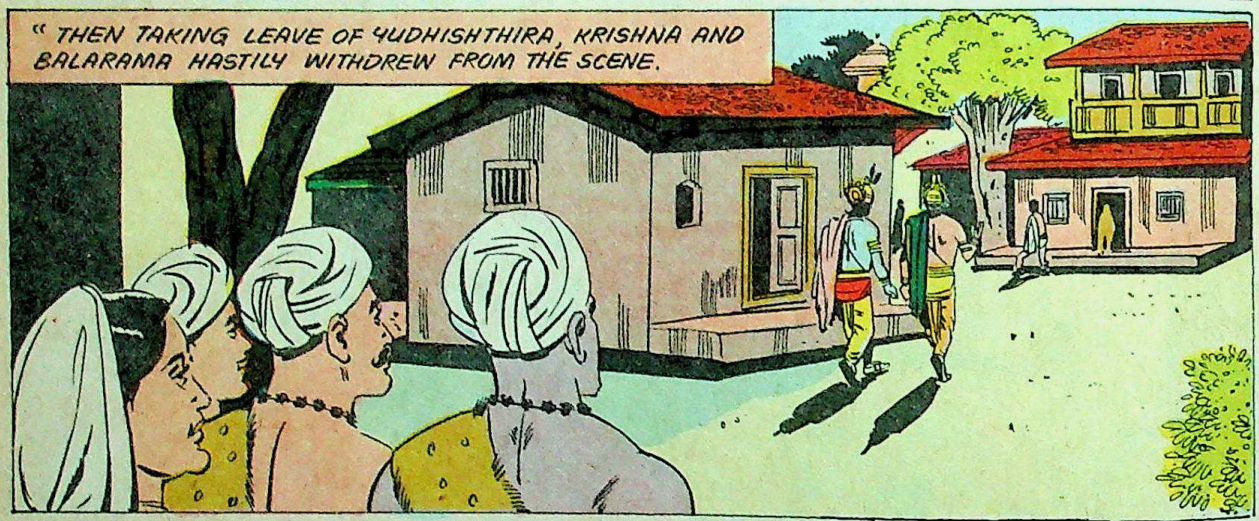

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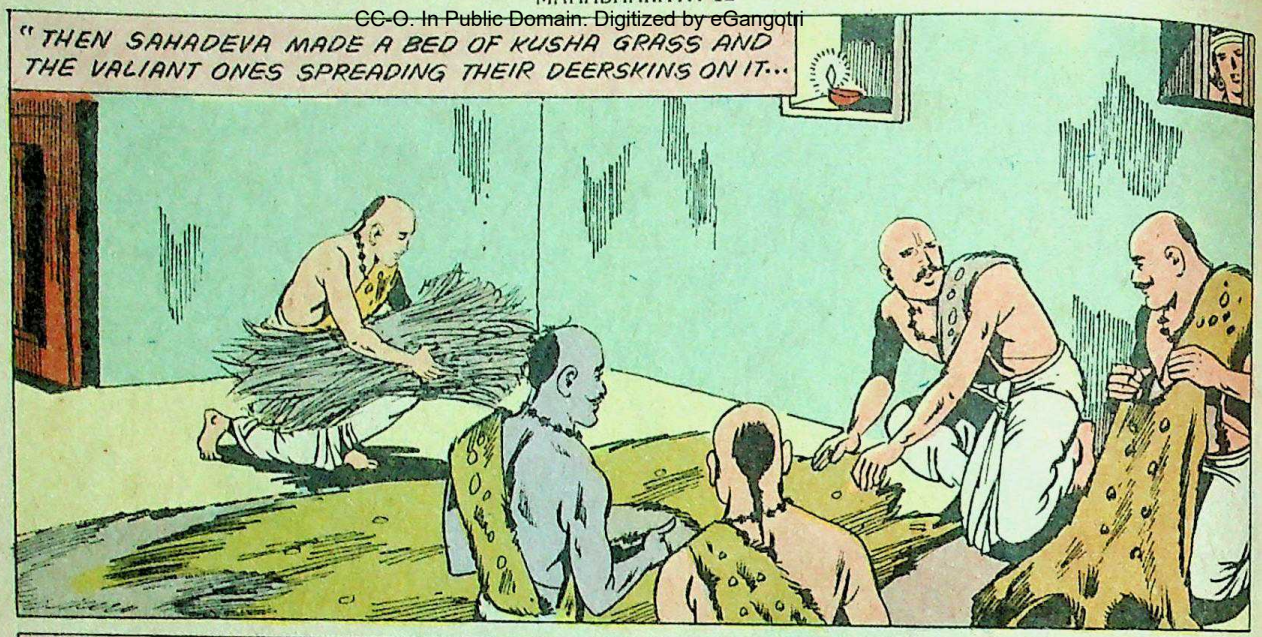

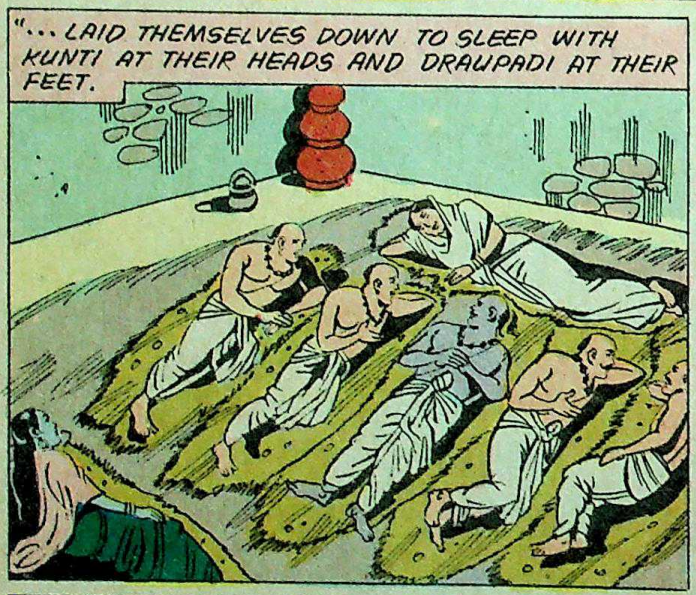

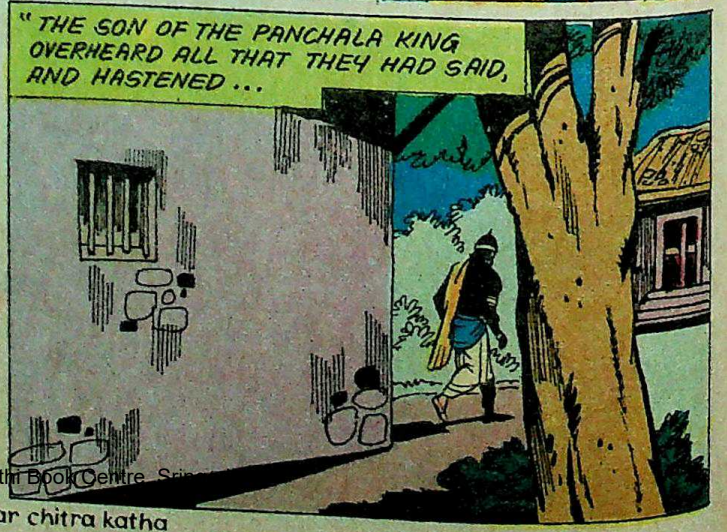

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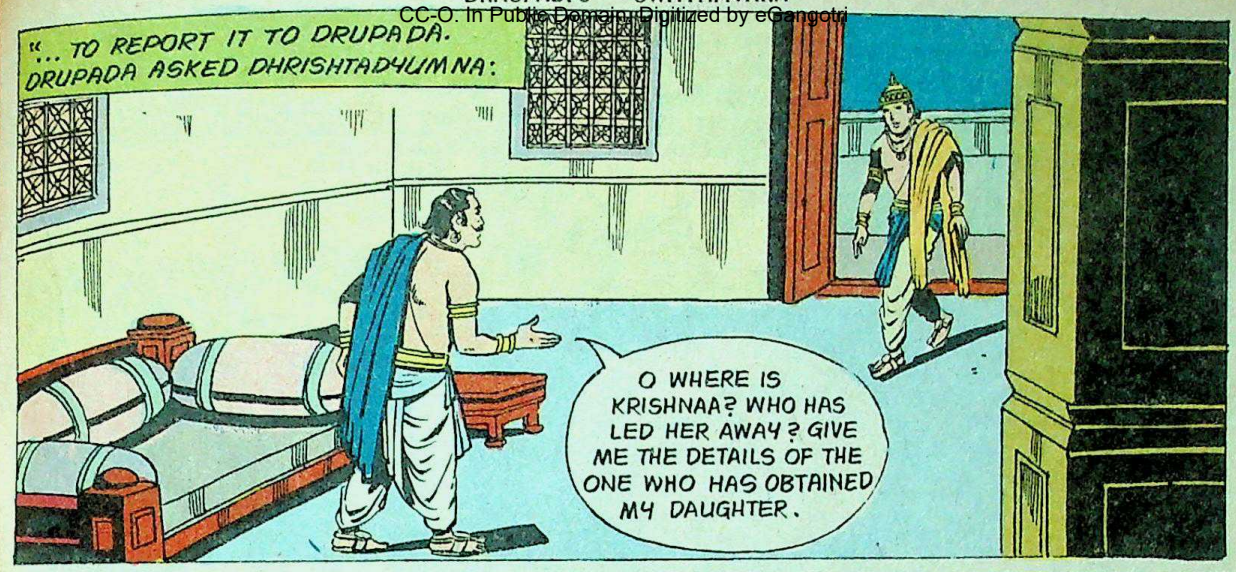

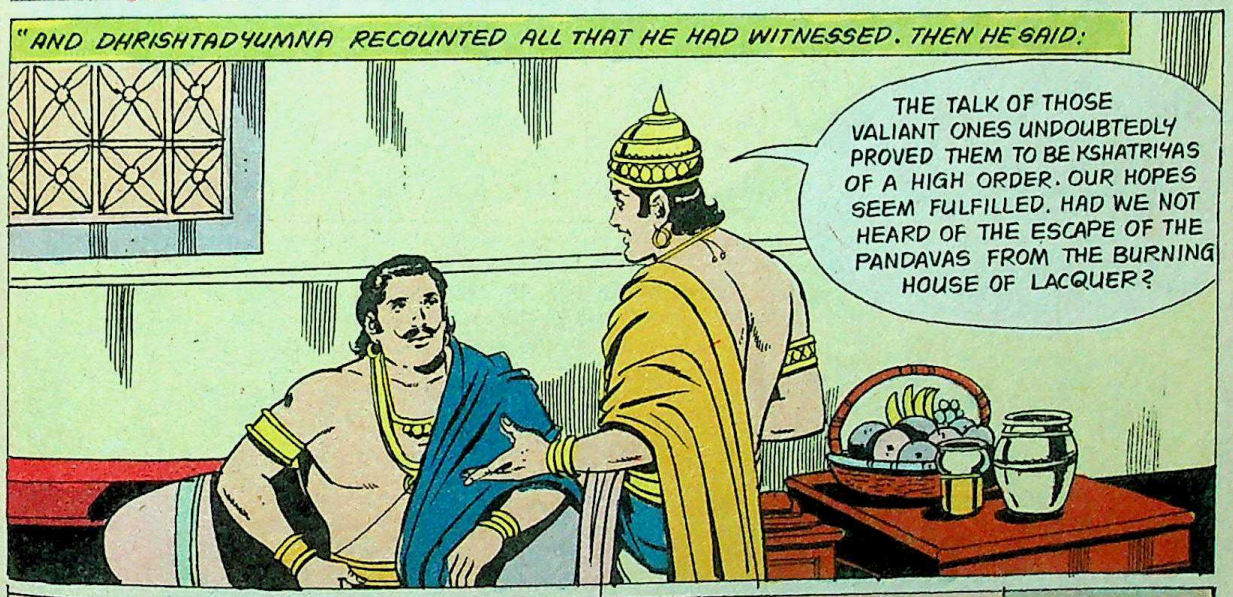

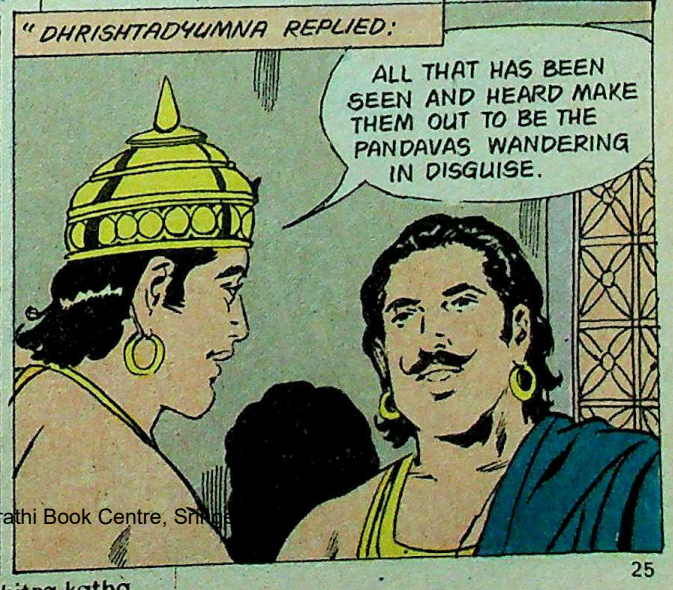

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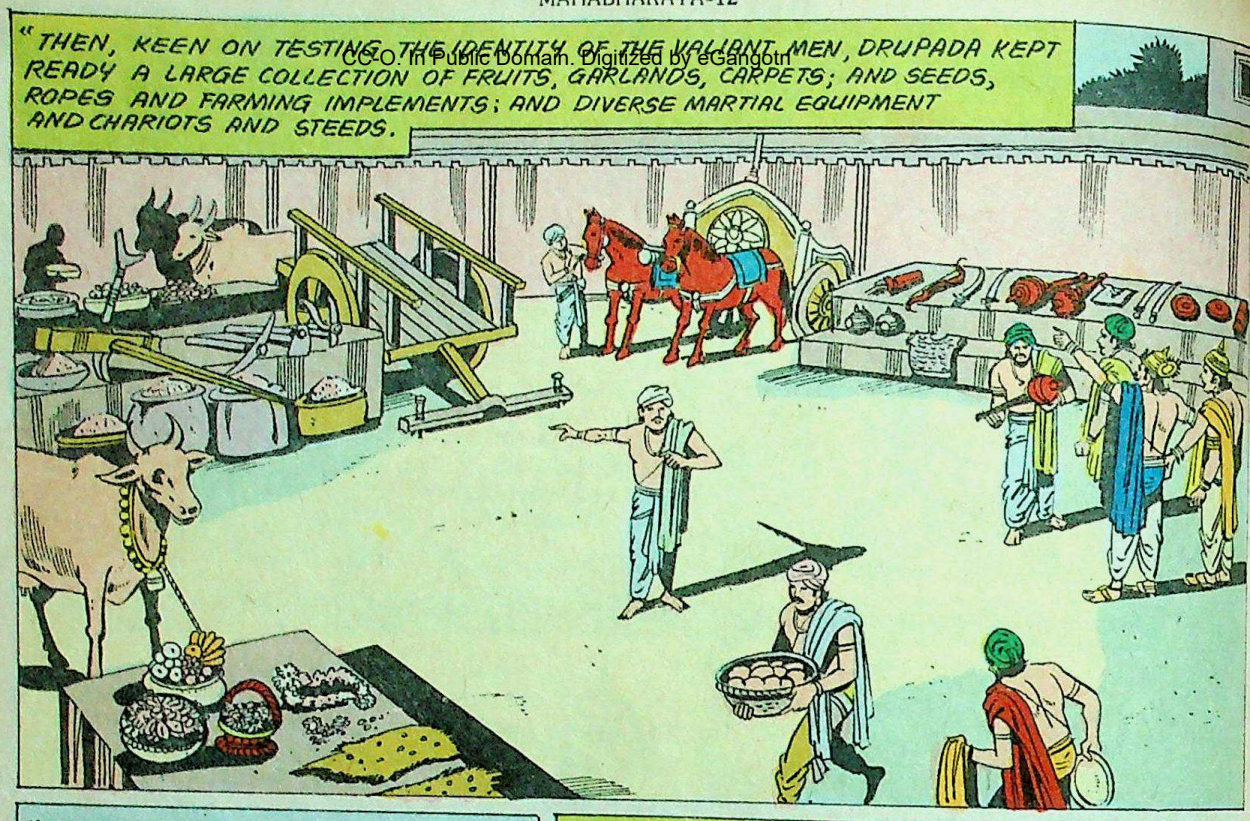

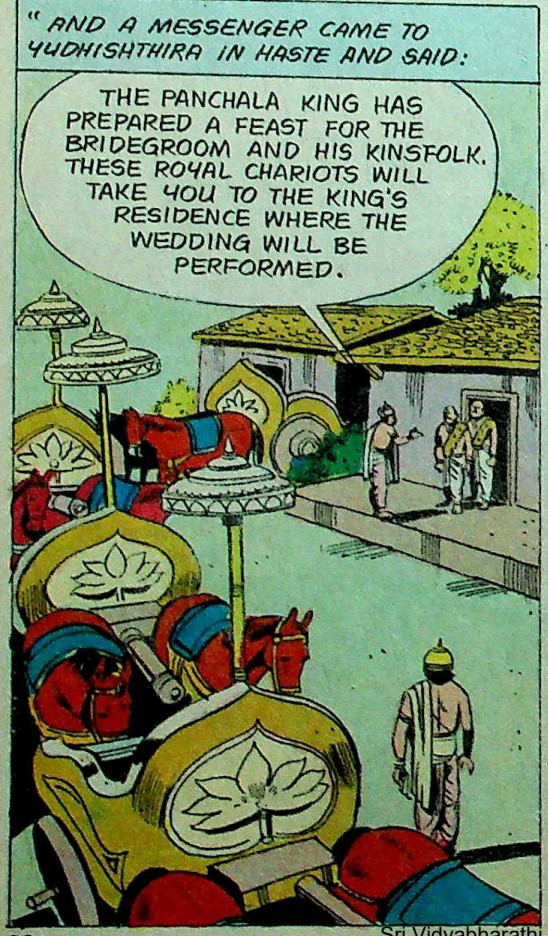

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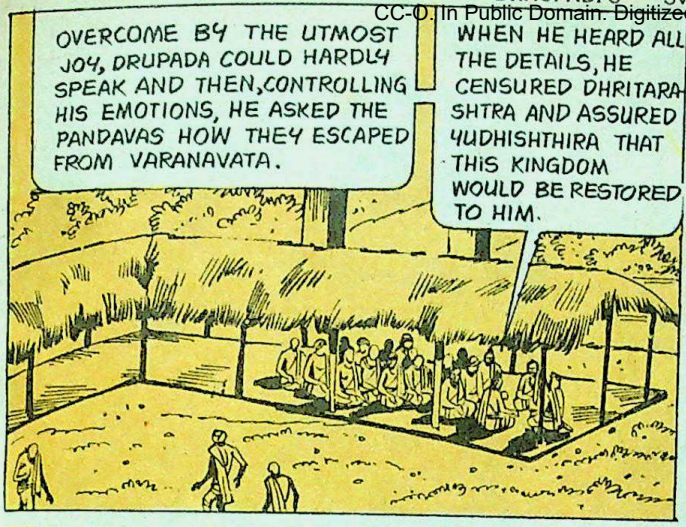

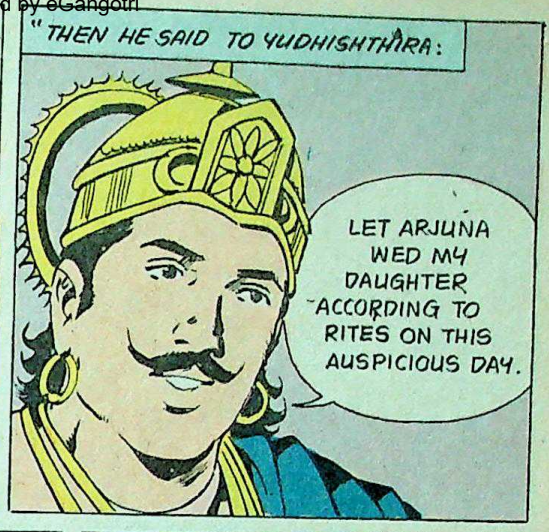

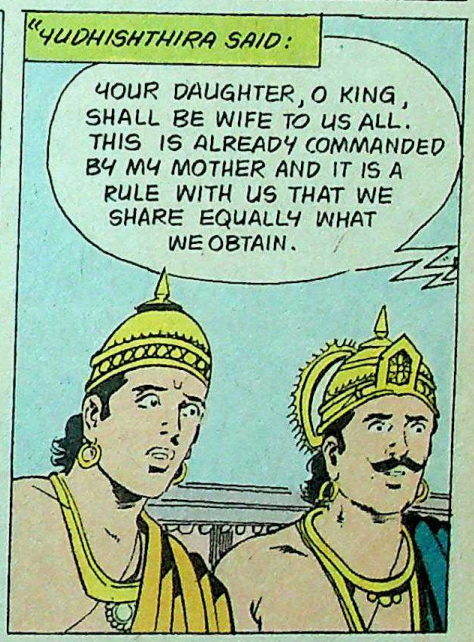

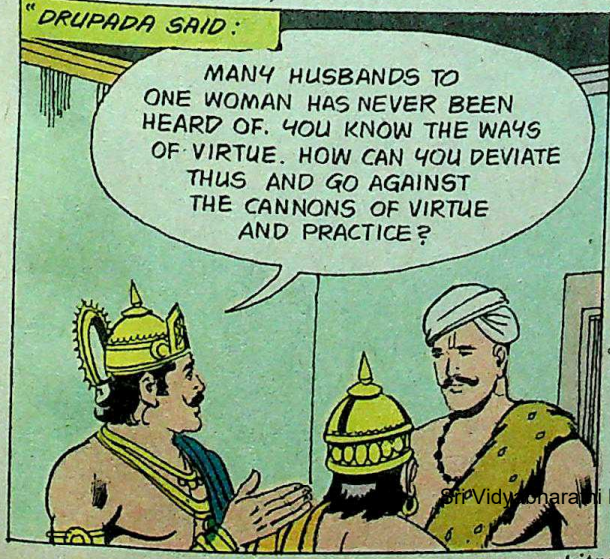

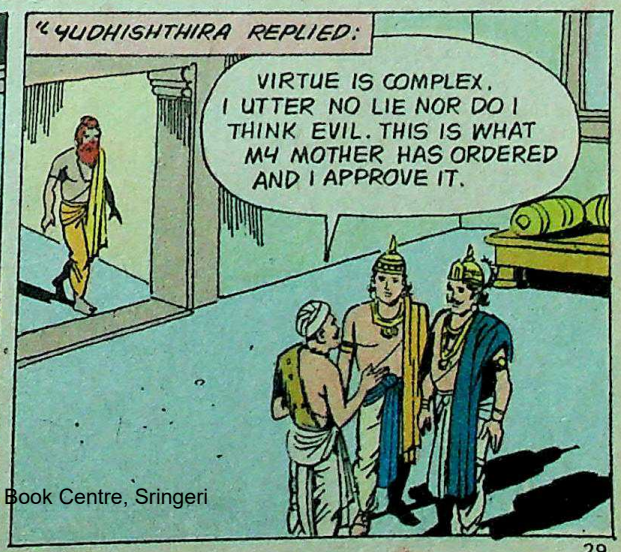

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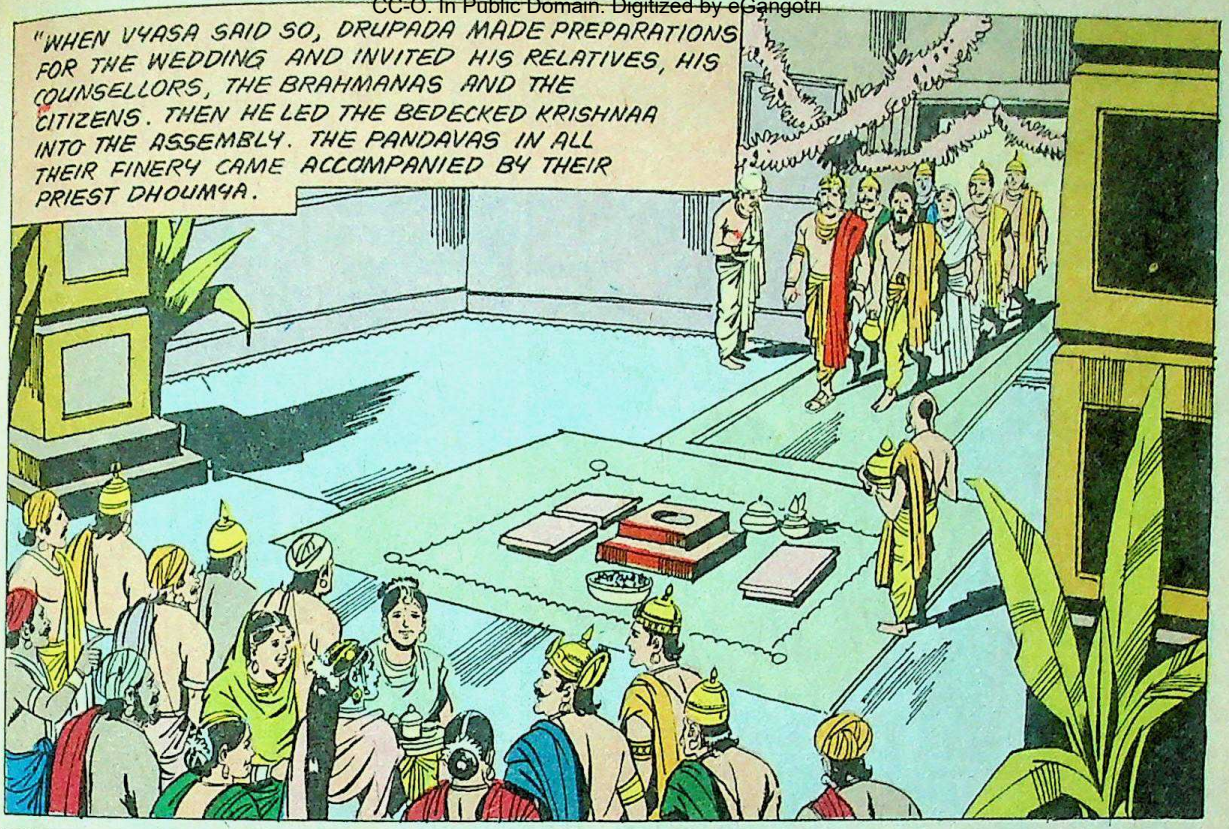

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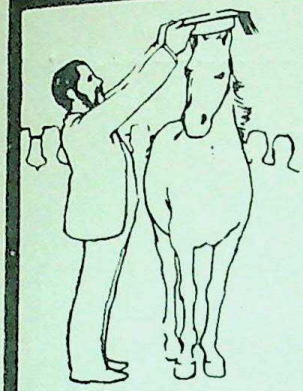
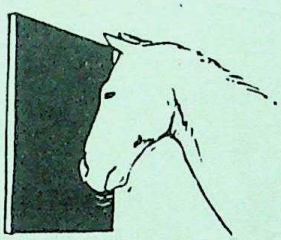
HORSE SENSE

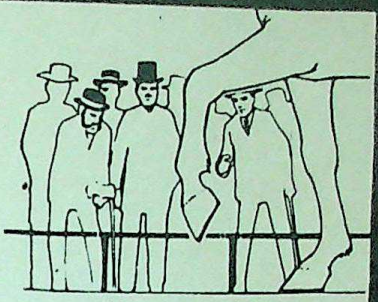


'Clever Hans' was a horse who lived in Germany, early in the twentieth century. He could read, solve mathematical problems, and answer questions on world political affairs — or so it seemed.

Hans would answer all mathematical questions by tapping his leg. If you asked him '3 plus 4', he would tap seven times. Non-mathematical questions (such as 'Is London the capital of Britain?') would be answered by shaking or nodding the head. Hans could even answer questions written out on blackboards.

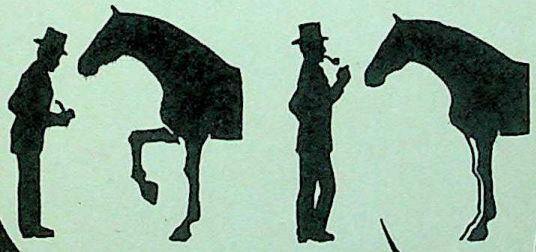


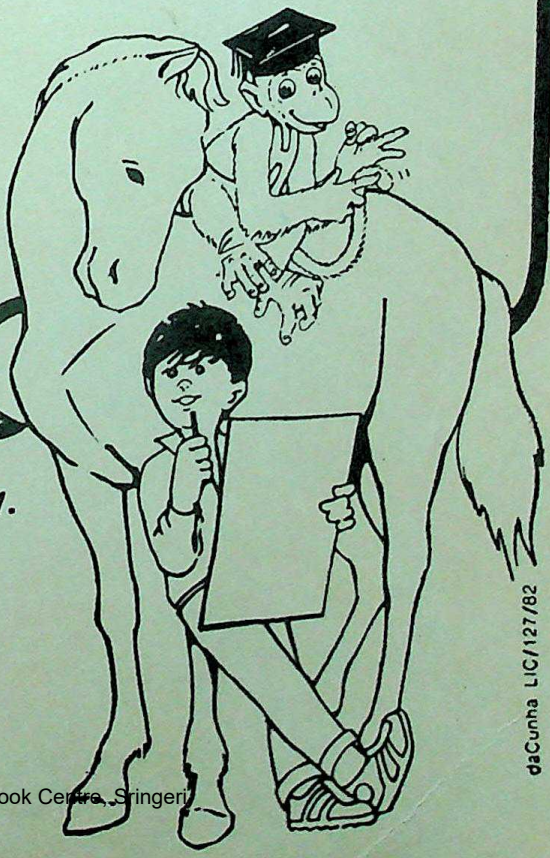
Finally Hans' secret was discovered. He was highly sensitive to the reactions of people around him, especially his master Osten. When a mathematical question was asked, people would look at Hans' foot. So Hans would start tapping. When he reached the right number of taps, people would react in some way, without being aware of it. They would nod slightly, or relax, or smile. Hans would then stop tapping.



Hans was able to pick up similar cues for non-mathematical questions. No one knows how he learnt this trick.

The most amazing thing is that even after people became aware of the horse's method, they could still not stop sending out these little clues, no matter how hard they tried!





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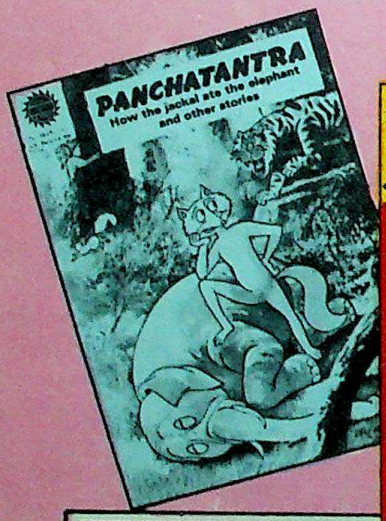

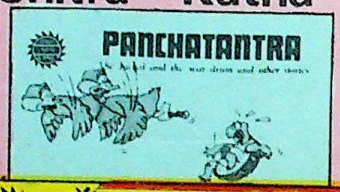

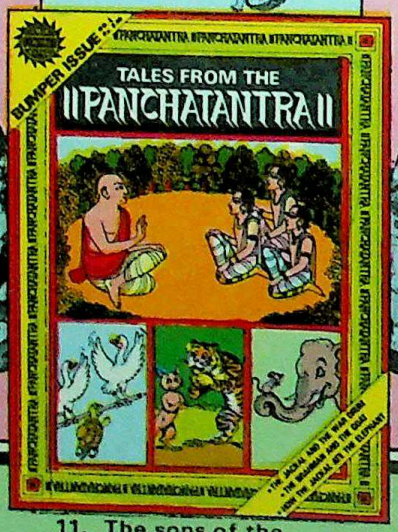

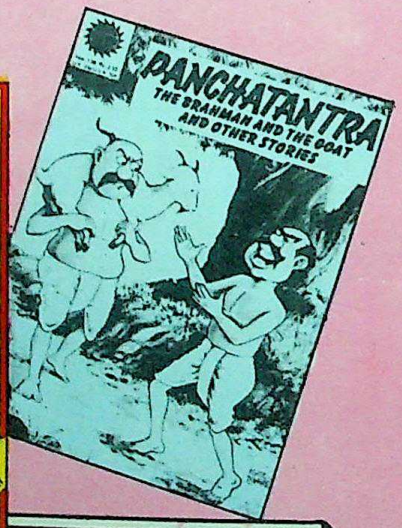

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